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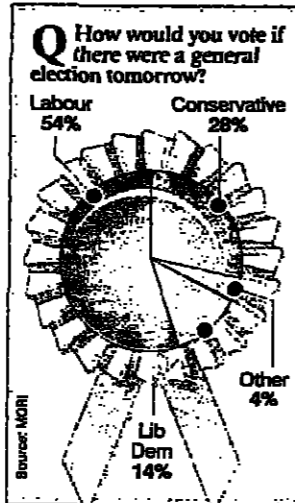
APPOINTMENTS 28 PAGES of top jobs

First hint of 'feel-good' factor

Tories given glimmer of hope by poll

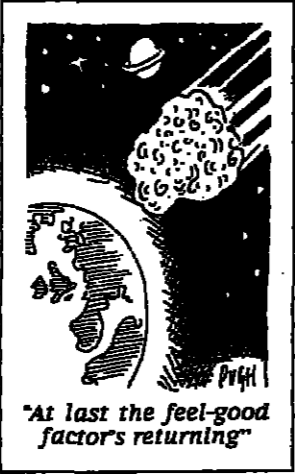
By Peter Riddell

PEOPLE have at last started to feel more optimistic about the economic outlook and are more positive about John Major than at any time for three years, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times. But the shift in attitude has not yet changed voting intentions or the expectation of big Conservative losses in next week's council elections. The poll, conducted last weekend, shows that support for the Tories remained at 28 per cent over the past month, Labour slipped three points to 54 per cent - its lowest level since September - while the Liberal Democrats are up a point at 14 per cent. MORI has for the first time this month listed the Referendum Party in its voting intentions question, but only six people said they planned to vote for it, too few to register in the percentage shares. Tory strategists will be pleased at the first real sign of the 'feel-good' factor that has remained elusive in spite of the evidence of economic growth. The MORI economic optimism index has improved sharply to its highest level since November 1994. Many of those interviewed will have just noticed the Budget tax cuts in their pay packets and benefited from recent mortgage rate cuts. The index, measuring those who think that the country's general economic condition will improve rather than get worse, has been in the range of minus 17 to minus 19 points since last summer, but has now improved to minus six.



Mr Major's personal rating has also improved to its best level since January 1993. While many more people are still dissatisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister than are satisfied,

the gap is now minus 33 points. This compares with minus 39 at the end of March and minus 50 last year. Approval for Mr Major among Tory supporters has also improved to plus 39, around the peak levels touched only a couple of times since 1993. Disapproval of the way the Government is running the country has also dropped a little from previous very high levels. Nonetheless, by a five-to-one margin, people are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with the Government. The poll offers at most a glint of hope for the Tories. But they will remain cautious until there is evidence of a pick-up in the party's rating, especially after raising expectations before the Staffordshire South-East by-election which turned into one of their worst defeats. The drop in the Labour rating is not yet significant. Tony Blair's personal rating has fallen a little, but is still higher than for the other two party leaders. Half the public are satisfied with the way he is doing his job, with 28 per cent dissatisfied. Moreover, Labour supporters approve of his performance by more than five-to-one. Paddy Ashdown retains a positive rating, among both the public as a whole and Liberal Democrat supporters. MORI interviewed 1947 adults at 146 points across Britain from April 19 to 22. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10%), are undecided (7%) or refused to say (3%).



'At last the feel-good factor's returning'



Collision course: an artist's impression, using computer simulation, of an asteroid passing close to Earth

Eros has blind date with Earth

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AN ASTEROID twice the size of the one that killed the dinosaurs could be on a collision course with the Earth. Should Eros, a chunk of rock nearly 15 miles long, hit us, the effect would be catastrophic. When an object half as big hit the Earth 65 million years ago, it created a huge crater and hurled so much debris into the atmosphere that the climate was changed, vegetation died, and the dinosaurs disappeared. Panic would be premature, however. There is "no significant danger" that Eros will collide with us in the next 100,000 years. On a much longer time scale, however, such an impact is quite likely.

The calculations have been made by two different computers to simulate a range of eight possible evolutions of the orbit of Eros. Over the next 100,000 years or so all these simulations show Eros behaving normally, its orbit crossing that of Mars but not coming worryingly close to Earth. But over longer times, three of the eight orbits simulated do evolve into Earth-crossers and one produces a collision with the Earth just over one million years from now. "Although our simulations indicate no significant danger of a catastrophic impact by this large, near-Earth asteroid during the next 100,000 years, such a collision is likely in the far future" the researchers conclude. Eros is the largest of the near-Earth asteroids, going around the Sun on an elliptical path whose closest approach to the Earth's orbit is 14 million miles, and whose most distant is 72 million miles. A spacecraft called Near - Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous - is now on its way to Eros, and will go into orbit around it in 1999. Launched at a cost of \$122 million (\$82 million), Near should tell us a great deal about asteroids in general and Eros in particular. The US space agency NASA chose Eros, not because it is a threat, but because it is relatively easy to reach.

Two takeover bids which would have revolutionised Britain's electricity industry were blocked yesterday by the Government. Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said the bids by two generating companies would be detrimental to competition. His decision has blocked the £2.5 billion purchase of Southern Electric, the company serving the south of England, by generator National Power, and the £1.9 billion takeover bid by PowerGen of Midlands Electricity. A billion pounds was wiped off the value of the privatised electricity companies after the ruling. Southern Electric lost £200 million from its value with shares falling 79p to 824p. Midlands Electricity lost £157 million when its shares fell 41p to 370p. In taking the decision, Mr

Lang overturned a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report. One of the reasons for splitting the industry at the sell-off six years ago was to introduce more competition and bring down the price to the customer. However, domestic consumers have benefited only marginally, while shareholders have seen their holdings soar and have received a stream of special payouts from a cash-rich industry which has shed more than 43,000 jobs since privatisation. Controversy over the planned takeovers heightened last week when Southern Company, a giant American utility, said that it was interested in merging with National Power. Row continues, page 25 Pennington, page 27 Stock market, page 28

100 Tories revolt against divorce reforms

By Jill Sherman and Alice Thomson

MORE than a hundred Tory MPs, including 16 ministers and whips, voted against the Lord Chancellor's divorce reforms last night. In one of the biggest revolts against an important element of the Conservative programme, the Government had to rely on Labour to get its proposals through. Within minutes of the free vote on whether the concept of fault should be scrapped in divorce proceedings, two former ministers had called for progress on the Family Reform Bill to be reconsidered. John Patten the former Education Secretary claimed that Lord Mackay of Clashfern's proposals were now in Labour's hands and would get through only with its backing. "I have never known the Government's Bill to be at the mercy of the opposition party," he said. "It would be wise to halt progress on the Bill now and reflect whether it is wise to continue." And the former Chief Whip Michael Jopling said: "Well over 100 MPs on the government's side voted against what is the guts of the Bill. I ask the Leader of the House, when things have cooled down and the dust has settled, that he and his colleagues must reconsider whether they should proceed or not with the Bill." Ministers and whips who voted for an amendment to keep the concept of fault included John Birt, Simon Burns, James Clappson, Derek Conway, David Davis, Dr Liam Fox, John Horam, Tim Kirkhope, David Maclean, Patrick McLoughlin, Tom Sackville, Iain Sprouat, John Watts, Ann Widdecombe and David Willetts. They were joined by Michael Trend and

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PLO ends fight against Israel

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has declared an end to its 32-year armed struggle against Israel, voting to drop from its charter all references to the destruction of the Jewish state. A spokesman said the PLO parliament-in-exile had voted 504 in favour of amending the charter, with 54 voting against. Hezbollah fights on, page 16

Clinton threat to Sinn Fein

President Clinton is expected to sever relations with Gerry Adams if the IRA refuses to resume its ceasefire and disqualifies Sinn Fein from all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future. Mr Adams yesterday confirmed that Sinn Fein will contest the Northern Ireland elections. Page 2

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Major says pulling out of EU is 'cloud-cuckoo-land'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and James Landale

JOHN MAJOR yesterday told politicians pressing for withdrawal from the European Union that they were living in cloud-cuckoo-land. However he responded to the rising tide of public and media disaffection with Brussels by signalling a hardening of British attitudes within the EU. He delivered his sharpest warning yet that he will use the British veto if he fails to get his way in the current inter-governmental conference (IGC) on Europe's future, said that he was looking for an EU constructed in Britain's image, and hinted at a policy of non-cooperation if it continues to try to impose the Social Chapter in Britain by the backdoor. Mr Major's delicate attempt to answer the growing threat posed by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party

while reassuring Tory critics that he will fight any further moves towards integration came as John Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, met Sir James to warn him that he was in danger of splitting the Euro-sceptic vote and letting in a federalist Labour Party. Mr Redwood, as he had expected, failed to persuade Sir James not to put up candidates against the Tories, although the two men found they shared a broad measure of agreement about the kind of Europe they want to see. Mr Major, in his speech to the Institute of Directors, was trying to contain the growing demands for withdrawal while satisfying the clamour, intensified since the best crisis erupted, from within the Tory party, MPs and some of his Cabinet for him to take a

stand. His first intention was to tell the idea that there is any alternative for Britain to full membership. He spoke of the hard-headed benefits Britain had gained and said it was naive wrong and damaging to suggest that the choice for Britain was to go along with every demand its partners made or "head for the exit." Anyone who seriously thought of leaving should explain what that meant for inward investment and the impact on the City, he said. "Some suggest we could just negotiate a trading relationship with Europe. But frankly the idea that if we were outside Continued on page 2, col 6 Major speech, page 11 Leading article, page 21 EMU rejected, page 26 Conference report, page 26 City Diary, page 29

Lang puts block on electricity takeovers

By Christine Buckley

TWO takeover bids which would have revolutionised Britain's electricity industry were blocked yesterday by the Government. Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said the bids by two generating companies would be detrimental to competition. His decision has blocked the £2.5 billion purchase of Southern Electric, the company serving the south of England, by generator National Power, and the £1.9 billion takeover bid by PowerGen of Midlands Electricity. A billion pounds was wiped off the value of the privatised electricity companies after the ruling. Southern Electric lost £200 million from its value with shares falling 79p to 824p. Midlands Electricity lost £157 million when its shares fell 41p to 370p. In taking the decision, Mr

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£72m bill for rail-link before work begins

By Jonathan Prynne, Transport Correspondent

THE Government has paid £72 million in fees to consultants, bankers and lawyers for advice on the Channel Tunnel rail link, even though building work starts only next spring. In all 74 firms have been hired by the Government since 1992. Labour said yesterday it was "incredible" so much taxpayers' money had been

spent before a yard of the 68-mile high-speed link was built. Glenda Jackson, the party's London Transport spokeswoman, said: "Once again, taxpayers' money has been finding its way to the coffers of companies with links to the Tory party. This can only add to the aura of sleaze surrounding this blighted administration." The contract to build the line, expected to open in 2002, was awarded in February to London & Continental

Railways, a consortium including Richard Branson's Virgin Group and National Express. It will receive a £1.4 billion Treasury subsidy. Advisory work was commissioned by Union Railways, a government-owned company responsible to date for planning and managing the £3 billion project. Tory MPs who advised companies involved include Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, David Howell, a Transport Secretary during

the 1980s, and Eric Pickles, a party vice-chairman. Lord Parkinson, also once Transport Secretary, has chaired one company. The names were disclosed in the 1995 register of members' interests, but it is not known if the links still existed when contracts were awarded. The rail link will enable Eurostar trains to go at 186mph in England, saving 30 minutes on journeys between London and Paris.

Table with 4 columns: TV & RADIO (46, 47), WEATHER (24), CROSSWORDS (24, 48), LETTERS (21), OBITUARIES (23), JACK STRAW (20), ARTS (33-35), CHESS & BRIDGE (43), COURT & SOCIAL (22), SPORT (43-46, 48), BODY AND MIND (18), TRAVEL NEWS (38, 39)

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April 25 1996

# Tory Broad Church celebrates meaningless ritual

What sort of MPs do we have? Splashed across the pages of most of our newspapers yesterday morning was the story of a Nottingham school's attempt to expel a violent young troublemaker, Richard Wilding. By coincidence, yesterday afternoon featured an hour of questions to the Education Secretary. Some could have been used by MPs to raise that issue. But did any Tory or Labour backbencher mention Wilding? Did the Opposition front bench ask about him? Not a peep. Possibly MPs simply forgot about it. The scope and level of discussion



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

The only other subject the Tories wanted to discuss was Harriet Harman and Tony Blair's choices of schools for their children. This, too, had nothing to do with any of the questions, but successive members slipped in their weary jibes regardless. On Labour's side, the tone is grindingly negative. You get no sense of belief in something better or enthusiasm for new ideas, just a constant, carping

religious schools and school worship, Mr Foster, a careerist of the bland tendency, insists he said no such thing. Liberal Democrats, when they fight each other, fight like weasels in a sack. Yesterday the Tories had fun prodding the sack. One turned in despair to the text of the Prime Minister's speech that morning to the Institute of Directors. It is difficult to work out what this speech means. Instead of sitting on the fence in the time-honoured way, Mr Major has taken to hopping rapidly backwards and forwards from one side of the fence to

the other, the overall impression being of an ambiguous blur, like a hummingbird's wings. Thus the foD speech could be intoned by two choirs, in the way of the verses and responses in a High Church service. Eurosceptics could take one part, Eurosceptics the counterpart. Our psalm is taken from the text of that foD speech. It should be chanted in plain-song. In each section an oblique stroke is used to indicate a changed note: the first down, the second up. "We are in Europe and we all know we are staying in Europe."

There are some who question / that / membership. "I do not seek confrontation: nor do I expect it." "If it isn't in our interest I will just / say / no." "There is a lot / that / helps us." "Not every decision is what we would / have / liked." "But neither / is every decision comfortable for every other / country." "There are things we don't like / about / Europe." "But I also see clearly the hard-headed benefits Britain / has / gained." A/men

## Amnesty on guns will last a month

A firearms amnesty is to be held in June to capitalise on public revulsion after the Dunblane massacre. People handing in illegal weapons at police stations will not be prosecuted unless it can be proved the weapons have been used in criminal activity. A £75,000 publicity campaign will herald the launch of the amnesty, running from June 3 to June 30 in England, Wales and Scotland. It will not operate in Northern Ireland.

**Teachers to strike**  
Twenty teachers at Glaisdale comprehensive school in Nottinghamshire are to begin an indefinite strike tomorrow to avoid teaching Richard Wilding, 13, who has returned after being expelled for allegedly threatening staff and attacking pupils.

**Labour tax row**  
The accountants KPMG cancelled seminars on Labour's tax plans after claims by Gordon Brown they were "peddling rumours and lies". KPMG said: "Misreporting of these seminars has distorted their content. The firm has and always will be apolitical."

**Drug girl, 12**  
A 12-year-old girl at Dame Allan's independent school in Newcastle upon Tyne has been accused of selling marijuana to another pupil. The head teacher said yesterday: "I am conducting an inquiry to find out who was involved."

**Video stopped**  
Production of a video showing scenes of drunken youths invading football pitches across Europe was halted after Gordon Banks, the former England goalkeeper, said he had been duped into giving an interview to the makers of *Hooligan '96*.

**Rape awards**  
Two prostitutes who brought the first successful private prosecution for rape have been awarded compensation of £5,000 each. The Crown Prosecution Service had said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute the man, from Margate, Kent.

**Stalker struck off**  
A German doctor who stalked the Princess of Wales was struck off the medical register for drug abuse. Dr Klaus Wagner, 37, of Stratford, east London, prescribed himself "litres" of morphine-based drugs.

**Boy, 14, is held**  
A boy aged 14 was arrested in connection with the killing of a 17-year-old supermarket worker. The victim, Andrew Weighell, died of a skull fracture after being hit with a golf club on a playing field at Redcar, on Teesside.

**X-ray protest**  
The Royal College of Radiologists said "scaremongering" in a *Panorama* programme on X-rays had led to patients cancelling treatments. A programme spokeswoman said: "What is wrong with letting people know of a small risk?"

**Accountant wins**  
Stewart Harries, 35, a chartered accountant in London unfairly dismissed after refusing to hide income irregularities for the German-owned Siemens engineering firm, was awarded £15,000 by an industrial tribunal.

# Clinton ready to ditch Adams over ceasefire

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND PHILIP WEBSTER



Clinton: felt betrayed by Docklands bomb

President Clinton is expected to sever relations with Gerry Adams if the IRA refuses to resume its ceasefire and disqualifies Sinn Fein from all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future. Highly placed sources say that the Sinn Fein president has been left in no doubt that the policy of the American Administration towards his party will change dramatically if it declines to participate in the next stage of a peace process in which Mr Clinton has invested much. Mr Adams confirmed yesterday as expected that Sinn Fein will contest the elections in Northern Ireland to be held next month, but again gave no hint that a new ceasefire was likely. The SDLP also announced it would field candidates, clearing the way to a poll on May 30. Mr Clinton, who felt betrayed by the IRA bomb in London's Docklands after his decision to see Mr Adams during his visit to Belfast last November, is said to be ready to cut him adrift if he lets him down again. The Administration believes Sinn Fein should be allowed into talks if the ceasefire returns, even if the announcement comes only days before the projected starting date for discussions of June 10. Mr Clinton wants the talks to go ahead without Sinn Fein if the ceasefire is not resumed. While Mr Adams has a few weeks of his existing US visa to run, future applications would be likely to be rejected. "If Mr Adams becomes a pariah on the international stage then so be it," a senior source has said. Mr Clinton is continuing to take a keen interest in the

peace process and has had a stream of meetings with Northern Ireland politicians. At his recent talks with Tony Blair he made a point of congratulating him on maintaining support for the Government's line. Opinion in the White House has been hardening sharply against Sinn Fein since it renewed its campaign of violence. It believes the IRA should have resumed its ceasefire after Mr Major and John Bruton agreed a timetable for elections and all-party talks. A senior Administration official said the White House had been pressing hard for it to produce a firm plan for eradicating "mad cow" disease if it wanted EU farm ministers to ease the beef ban next week. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, was reported by his spokesman to have sent a message to John Major urging him "to avoid the situation where the Commission and member states receive imprecise and unwritten indications too late" for next Monday's meeting. However, British officials said the Prime Minister had received no message although M Santer had made the point in a telephone conversation with Stephen Wall, the British Ambassador to the EU. The warning came as the National Farmers' Union met the Prime Minister and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, at Downing Street yesterday and announced that it would launch a joint legal challenge to the export ban with representatives of beef hauliers and exporters in the High Court today. Afterwards Mr Hogg, who had lengthy discussions with Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner in Brussels on Tuesday, spoke of moving in a "step-by-step" way to a solution. But the Government is still a long way from reaching an agreement. Ministers want a guarantee that Brussels will lift at least part of the ban — for example on semen and embryos and beef-derived products such as gelatine and tallow — when the Government unveils details of the slaughter policy. Britain is fighting the insistence of Brussels and EU member states that the cull should be allowed to operate for some months before the ban is lifted. Some EU states want the Government to slaughter all herds which have had any case of BSE, which would wipe out half the dairy cattle in Britain, involving millions of animals. Mr Major told the Commons last week that the Government would soon be starting legal proceedings of its own. The Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday: "We expect that it will run in parallel with the NFU action before the European Court." Not all exporters support the move. Nick Askaroff, managing director of Anglo Dutch Meats of Eastbourne, said: "As an industry it would do us no good at all as our export markets will still refuse to take the product."

## Brussels demands action by Britain to curb BSE

By CHARLES BREMMER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL HORNSBY



Sir James refused to give up challenge to Tories

## Major warning

Continued from page 1  
The EU we could somehow become a trading haven on the edge of Europe with all the benefits of that vital market of 370 million, while others fix the rules without any regard at all to our national self-interest. It is national-cuckoo-land."

will stand our ground and will not follow them. The Europe that evolves will be flexible — and will need to be — to recognise and accommodate our national interest and beliefs as well as theirs."

However, for much of his speech the Prime Minister set out his determination "passionately" to reject the centralising aims of some of his partners. "At Maastricht I said no to policies I thought would be damaging. If I had not won on those issues there would have been no treaty. "On the IGC we have set out our position. Nothing can be imposed on us in the IGC unless we agree. If it is not in our interest I won't agree. I will just say no."

He added that he had told his partners that they must stop trying to get round the Social Chapter opt-out by trying to impose provisions such as the maximum 48 hour week by other means. Mr Redwood and Sir James met for 50 minutes at the Dorchester Hotel in London. Afterwards Mr Redwood said: "I haven't managed to persuade him to back the Conservative Party as the best way of achieving the kind of Europe we both want."



Redwood: failed to get deal on election tactics

"But I still think it would be better if Sir James's candidates were withdrawn from the Conservative Party's point of view because then there is no uncertainty." Sir James agreed that they had been "broadly speaking" in agreement although not in "total harmony". He said: "John Redwood and I have broadly similar positions on the type of Europe we want to see but the Referendum Party has only one objective and that is to have a referendum."

Although he made clear that the challenge to the Tories would continue, he indicated that he might not put up a candidate against Mr Redwood. Mr Redwood would, however, have to back a full referendum on whether Britain should be run by Brussels or Westminster, and not just on the narrower issue of a single currency.

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## McGuinness rules out fresh truce

A LEADING member of Sinn Fein said last night that there was "no prospect whatsoever" of a new ceasefire unless the IRA could be convinced there would be "real" peace negotiations. Martin McGuinness said that, as things stood, it would be a waste of time for him or Gerry Adams to go to the IRA and ask for a new ceasefire. The Republicans are barred from the all-party talks due to

start on June 10 unless the IRA restores the ceasefire. Mr McGuinness said: "At the moment there is no prospect whatsoever of a restoration of the ceasefire, unless we can be in a position to go to the IRA and convince them that we are going to have real and meaningful peace negotiations."

Speaking on BBC Northern Ireland's *Newsline*, Mr McGuinness said there was a feeling in the nationalist community that "the British Government and the unionists are not serious about negotiating an honest and just settlement to this conflict." He also said that the ceasefire of August 1994 had never been permanent; it was a complete cessation which could have been permanent only through dialogue between the Governments and all political parties.

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## Divorce revolt

Continued from page 1  
Dame Angela Rumbold, both Tory vice-chairmen, and at least 17 parliamentary private secretaries. The amendment, put forward by the former Trade Minister Edward Leigh, was nevertheless defeated by 267 votes to 137. Business managers were expecting an even bigger revolt on the second free vote last night to extend the cooling-off period for divorce from a year to 18 months. The Lord Chancellor has argued in favour of keeping to the 12-month period but is said to be relaxed about extending it slightly. Tony Blair voted in favour of removing fault from the divorce process and was intending to back the 12-month cooling-off period. However, his aides said that he intended to back an amendment during later stages of the Bill for a

mandatory reconciliation period. Before the vote, Tory backbenchers voiced concerns that the reforms, which had a stormy passage through the Lords, would encourage rather than prevent family breakdown. Mr Leigh urged the Government to scrap the idea of no-fault divorce after a year, saying Parliament should lay down a moral cornerstone for marriage partners. Dame Angela Rumbold, said that the Bill should concentrate on making the marriage contract more solid, not less. "Is the message we really want to give to the nation that these marriage vows mean nothing?" But the solicitors' Family Law Association welcomed the vote, describing it as useful in reducing antagonism.

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Blair's character MP tells

The Court functioned by email

04/25/1996

# Blair's aide was a character assassin, MP tells libel trial

By Russell Jenkins

A LABOUR MP told the High Court yesterday that he saw a journalist, now one of Tony Blair's closest aides, soliciting signatures on a hand-drafted parliamentary motion.

George Galloway, MP for Glasgow Hillhead, said he saw Alastair Campbell, then the political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, with a newly elected MP outside the Commons tea-room. The journalist was urging the MP to put his signature on an early day motion (EDM).

Mr Galloway said he took a special interest in the "perambulations" of Mr Campbell because he regarded him for years as the "hired character assassin" for Robert Maxwell. Mr Galloway suggested that, now Mr Campbell held an important position as chief press secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, "I have to keep these comments to myself". But he said: "My feelings are the same — that a man who could serve with such gusto the greatest thief of the 20th century in this country is the kind of person to be kept a wary eye on."

Mr Galloway was giving evidence on the second day of a High Court action brought by Rupert Allason, Tory MP for Torbay. He is suing Mr Campbell, *Mirror* Group Newspapers and Andy McSmith, another political journalist, for malicious falsehood and is asking for aggravated damages.

Mr Allason, the author of best-selling spy books written under the pseudonym Nigel West, claims that Mr Campbell was behind a fabricated story that appeared in the *Mirror* in November 1992. The story said that 50 MPs were challenging Mr Allason to hand over to the Maxwell pensioners £250,000 in libel profits he had made from the newspaper.

The *Mirror* Group acknowledges that the EDM had been drafted by one of its staff but strongly denies malicious



George Galloway, above, and Alastair Campbell



George Galloway, above, and Alastair Campbell

falsehood, that there was any malice behind publication or that Mr Campbell wrote the motion or the story.

Jimmy Boyce, the newly elected MP for Rotherham, tabled the motion. Mr Galloway said that his colleague, who had since died, was close to tears and later expressed remorse. Such a motion was "unprecedented in my experience" Mr Galloway added.

Richard Caborn, MP for Sheffield Central, said in evidence that he was buttonholed by David Bradshaw, Mr Campbell's deputy, and asked whether he was prepared to table the motion. Mr Caborn suggested that it should be done by Mr Boyce to give him some experience.

Bradshaw phoned me about the number of signatures and I assured him that Jimmy Boyce would get 50."

Mr Caborn said he came across Mr Allason haranguing Mr Boyce in the members' lobby after a division. "Jimmy Boyce said that Rupert Allason had said that Alastair Campbell had tabled the motion. He had no idea who Alastair Campbell was."

Charles Wilson, managing director of *Mirror* Group Newspapers and acting editor of *The Independent*, also gave evidence. He had investigated Mr Allason's complaints.

He told the court that he could not recall who drafted the EDM. He told the judge, Sir Maurice Drake, that he had no reason to believe it was Mr Campbell.

Earlier, Mr Allason, concluding his evidence in chief, was questioned closely about his knowledge of Mr Campbell's involvement in drawing up and seeking support for the EDM. The MP had earlier told the court that he had been warned by four people, two MPs and two lobby correspondents, that *Mirror* journalists and Mr Campbell in particular were looking to place the motion on a backbencher.

Mr Allason agreed with Charles Gray, QC, for the *Mirror*, that "he put two and two together to make five" when he concluded that Mr Campbell was the motion's author. He said: "I wouldn't say it was guesswork. I must admit that I couldn't believe that Mr Campbell would be willing to involve other people in this clandestine activity."

Mr Allason admitted that he had subsequently tried to get Mr Campbell sacked from his job as political editor of the *Mirror* and had later boasted around Westminster that he had been successful. He had written a letter to David Montgomery, company chief executive, telling him that there was a remedy "immediately available to you that I invite you to exercise".

The trial continues.



Muddying the name of costume drama: Technicians from *Moll Flanders* try to clean up after rain turned Church Street into a quagmire

## Moll flounders in the mud of real-life drama

FILM-MAKERS were a little too successful when they tried to re-create the road conditions of the 18th century in a picturesque National Trust village. They hid the modern surfaces under 70 tons of soil, which promptly turned into a muddy quagmire after unexpected overnight rain.

Yesterday the residents of Lacock, Wiltshire — pop. 1,080 — were furious over the far from special effects of the Granada production of Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders*. One said: "The BBC filmed *Pride and Prejudice* here and we never had any trouble with them."

The soil was spread along Church Street in the village, which is standing in for old Colchester. Susan Walker, 86, who has lived in Lacock for half a century, said: "It is terrible. I am completely stuck. I don't dare cross the road for fear of falling over, which means I won't be able to go out to our local pensioners' club."



*Pride and Prejudice* in Lacock: "We never had any trouble with them"

Margaret Vaughan, owner of a tea-shop, said: "I think they were rather stupid putting it all down in the rain. I have 150 old age

pensioners coming for lunch today. I don't know how we are going to get them through all this. "The carpets are so filthy that, when guests come in, they think they have arrived on the mud flats at Weston-super-Mare. I have had to wash all their boots and stockings."

Nick Sandford, a spokesman for the National Trust, said: "Vehicles were skidding quite badly and I was worried that there might be an accident. I understand that film and TV people usually use a mixture of peat and gravel to cover modern roads, but this time they used soil and limestone. "With the torrential rain overnight, Lacock has been

turned into a sea of mud. It is a dreadful mess. The National Trust is not very happy about it. We are talking to Granada and we apologise to all people affected by it."

Defoe's adventure was first published in 1722, telling the story of a criminal heroine and her spiritual awakening. Ironically, the same author had much to say on the muddy state of the nation's roads in his subsequent travel book, *A Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*.

The new production, a £4 million costume drama, is being filmed at locations around the country, and is scheduled for release later this year. A Granada spokesman said: "Unfortunately we are victims of the weather. It is one of the perils of filming on location rather than in the studio. "At the moment we are doing everything we can to make the best of a bad situation. Of course, if any damage has been caused by the filming we will pay compensation."

## High Court injunction served by e-mail

By Frances Gibb

A LAW firm has broken with centuries of legal tradition by serving a High Court injunction via e-mail.

Schilling & Lom obtained the order from Mr Justice Newman after an individual threatened to distribute libelous material about one of its clients on the Internet. The threats were sent from an e-mail address on the Continent.

Jonathan Coad, a partner with the London law firm, said: "We believe this is a first in Britain. Normally writs or orders have to be served by hand; it can take several days to locate the person and the costs can be huge. "The civil process of writ-issuing is still bound up in tradition. If you go down to the High Court to issue a writ, it is recorded in leather-bound ledgers by hand. By contrast, the injunction was issued electronically for the cost of a local telephone call.

"This precedent will make the service of proceedings, particularly outside the country, faster and less expensive," Mr Coad said. "It must be the way forward."

## Judge says coma woman should be allowed to die

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

JANET JOHNSTON, who has been in a persistent vegetative state for four years after taking an overdose, should be allowed to die, a Scottish judge ruled yesterday.

Lord Cameron of Loch-broom said that Law Hospital in Strathclyde can stop artificially feeding Mrs Johnston, a 53-year-old grandmother.

Lord Cameron said he had taken into account arguments made by lawyers acting in Mrs Johnston's interests that she be kept alive. He had also heard from four independent neurosurgeons that she had no chance of recovery. It would be a dereliction of his duty if he did not allow doctors to stop feeding her.

Mrs Johnston breathes for herself and can open and shut her eyes but she has not responded to any stimuli and has to be fed artificially. Doctors at Law Hospital will wait until any potential appeal has been heard before withdrawing her feeding tube. She will then die of dehydration within 14 days.

has backed the court case brought by the hospital and wants feeding to be withdrawn. "It is the right decision. I knew it was coming, but it is so hard to take," he said. "Janet was my only love and we were together for 30 years. It will be a big relief when she finally gets peace."

"When I see her for the last time I know what I will do. I will give her a last kiss and a long last cuddle and say 'goodbye darling'. When I see Janet it is so upsetting. I just sit there and hold her hand. But it doesn't make any difference."

Mrs Johnston's brothers, John and George, her husband and her daughter Linda Bryce said in a statement they were "relieved that Lord Cameron has allowed this to happen". Mr Johnston praised the doctors and nurses who have cared for his wife.

Dr John Browning, medical director at Law Hospital, said that, once he had assurances that there would be no appeals, doctors would wait two or three days and then withdraw Mrs Johnston's feeding tube. Any appeal has to be lodged within 21 days.

He said Mrs Johnston



Janet Johnston: has been in a coma for four years

would not need painkilling drugs but would be nursed intensively up to the time of her death. Robert Robertson, the hospital's director of nursing, said: "The nursing staff who have cared for Mrs Johnston 24 hours a day for the past four years support the decision taken."

There are about a hundred patients in a similar state to Mrs Johnston in Scotland and, although her case sets a precedent, the authority of the courts would be needed in each individual case before the patient is allowed to die.

Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow, said he deeply regretted the judgment. "Never before in Scotland has nourishment been equated with medical treatment. Nourishment, which is food, is a right of every human being and to deny food is to starve a person to death — this can never be morally right."

## Yacoub defends visit by Princess

By Emma Wilkins

PROFESSOR Sir Magdi Yacoub yesterday defended the Princess of Wales's presence during a heart operation on a seven-year-old boy.

The operation on Arnaud Wambo, sponsored by the children's charity Chain of Hope, was filmed by Sky TV at Hatfield Hospital, north London, on Monday. "It is a major misrepresentation to say that it was something to do with a photocall," the professor said.

"It wasn't something that was planned. Sky television were following the child and following the charity. The Princess was supportive to that particular charity and she happened to be there."

Sir Magdi, who waived his fee for the operation, denied widespread suggestions by commentators that the Princess's presence was a distraction or a danger. "We have people who are in charge of infection control. They apply certain criteria which are quite strict."

Hatfield Hospital said that Arnaud had been moved from intensive care to a normal ward.

## Queen's protest at wealthiest woman claim is upheld

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE Press Complaints Commission has upheld the first complaint from the Queen, over a magazine article that claimed she was Britain's wealthiest woman.

In a ruling which could seriously curtail media speculation about the wealth of the Royal Family, the Commission said last night that *BusinessAge* magazine failed to check its facts, made a number of errors and presented speculation as established fact when assessing the Queen's personal fortune at £2.2 billion in an article last September.

The Queen is known to have objected to the magazine's decision to elevate her from seventy-fourth place to first in its annual list of Britain's 500 richest people by including the value of certain royal residences, art treasures and jewellery in its calculations of her fortune. She takes the view that this property is held in trust for the nation and cannot be sold for personal gain.

A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said: "The magazine presented an inaccurate and speculative over-estimate of the Queen's wealth and it was wrong in many

respects." The Queen's complaint represents an increasingly tough approach by the Palace to what it perceives as inaccuracies and invasions of privacy by newspapers.

"Given the increasing public interest in the royal finances generally, we considered it necessary to complain. In our view it is essential that readers have properly researched information," the spokeswoman said.

She said that the Queen's personal wealth was a private matter between her and the Inland Revenue, but added that estimates which valued it "upwards of £100 million" were grossly inaccurate.

In its ruling, the commission did not give an opinion on whether *BusinessAge*'s estimate of the Queen's wealth was correct. It concluded that the magazine should have explained the basis for increasing its valuation of the Queen's fortune from £158 million the previous year.

It said that the magazine's failure to check its facts with Buckingham Palace indicated a lack of care and that its research had not been exhaustive. Peter Kirwan, editor of

Business  
The Daily  
500

BusinessAge magazine ranked the Queen first

*BusinessAge* magazine maintained that his magazine's valuation of the Queen's wealth was "justified and legitimate" and said that the ruling would restrict freedom of expression. "There will be an increased reticence on the part of journalists to look at all of these issues, which are very topical at the moment," he said.

Mr Kirwan criticised "archaic structures of ownership which are obscured by excessive secrecy" and said that if the Palace was not prepared to enter into a dialogue about the Queen's wealth, he would have no hesitation in publishing the same £2.2 billion valuation next time, although he said that he would include a fuller explanation of how it was arrived at.

Other members of the Royal Family have complained to the commission on three previous occasions and in each case the complaint was upheld.

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Top state school is ignoring bullying

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# American chain taps demand for all-day nurseries

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA'S largest childcare company will open breakfast-to-time nurseries in 20 British towns for children as young as six weeks after huge demand at a pilot centre in Cheshire. The KinderCare nursery at Warrington runs from 7.30am to 6.30pm. Bookings for full or part-time places have been so buoyant since it opened almost a year ago that capacity has been increased from 75 to 100.

News of the expansion comes in the wake of criticism on Tuesday by the head of a leading independent school, Paddy Holmes, chairman of a 300-strong association of independent schools, said the nation was beginning to treat children like young animals by putting them into nursery schools too soon.

The youngest child who stays all day at the Warrington nursery is three months old. The Alabama-based company, which has 1,300 centres in 38 American states, is building its next centre in Luton, Bedfordshire. David Kedwards, its development director, plans to build on five more sites soon from a shortlist of 20, including Bristol, Reading, Swindon, Crawley and Bracknell. "We are



Sir Christopher Ball, left, director of learning at the Royal Society of Arts and author of *Start Right*, which argued for nursery education from the age of 3, said: "There are strong educational grounds for putting your child into good centre-based learning at 3, 4, or 5 for half a day. At the ages of 2 or 1 it probably does not do any harm, but it may not do any good... Under the age of 1, I am quite sure it is a mistake. I would be uneasy about a child in full-time care plus education much before the age of 6."



Margaret Lochrie, left, chief executive of the Pre-school Learning Alliance, said: "For very young children it is probably best to be with their parents. It is possible to provide day care for children of a good quality but it needs high staff ratios and a family-like atmosphere. In those circumstances we are sure the children do not suffer at all. The real problem is the shortage of good-quality care. Young children need individual attention for emotional development. They can get it from people other than their parents."



Sue Jones with one of her charges: 80 per cent arrive before 8.30am for breakfast

tailoring the American experience for the UK," Mr Kedwards said. "We are a genuine all-day nursery, five days a week, 52 weeks a year."

Christine Spencer sent her son Matthew to the Warrington nursery from the age of three months so that she could resume her career as a management accountant. Matthew, now 15 months, is taken before 9am for breakfast and collected after 4pm.

Mrs Spencer said: "When children are a bit older, I think it is harder to send them away. I do not think there was any adverse effect. Matthew almost finds it boring if we have

a week off. I can understand the criticism, but the present economic climate is such that you cannot easily turn away from a well-paid job."

Sue Jones, the centre manager, said that it was popular with parents who left early to travel to Manchester. "About 80 per cent of our children are in before 8.30am. We are able to take 18 children under the age of one and all those places are full, with a waiting list." A full-time baby place costs £12 a week. A full-time nanny can cost up to £250 a week.

Mrs Holmes, head of Ditcham Park School, Petersfield, Hampshire, said yesterday that she did not intend to criticise nursery schools, which were responding to demand. "It is the situation nationally and the lack of government support for working women that I was getting at," she said.

KinderCare carried out three years' research in Britain, which it regards as a huge untapped market, with the lowest level of pre-school provision in Europe. "The States are ten or 15 years ahead of the game and the childcare industry is a more sophisticated beast," Mr Kedwards said.

The company came to Britain before launching develop-

ments in Singapore and Australia because its research concluded that, by 2000, 80 per cent of new British jobs would be for women and the number of one-parent families would have increased.

There are no nursery or playgroup places for more than half the country's three-year-olds but Labour is promising to remedy that. The Government has pledged to introduce nursery vouchers for three-year-olds (in the medium term), which could stimulate more demand for private places.

Body and Mind, page 18

## Top state school 'is ignoring bullying'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE parents of ten children who have allegedly been bullied at a leading state school have withdrawn them and asked Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to intervene.

They say that little or nothing has been done despite a series of complaints to Harrogate Grammar School in North Yorkshire over the past two years. They also say the school has still to fulfil a requirement to devise a formal anti-bullying policy 16 months after being told to do so.

The school was highlighted last month by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, as one of 32 "outstandingly successful" secondaries in England and Wales. Liz Carnell withdrew her teenage son John in December 1994 after he was punched in the stomach. She said her complaints to the headmaster, Kevin McAleese, were not dealt with adequately.

Mr McAleese denied that Mrs Carnell's complaints had been ignored and said an investigation by the local education authority had shown the school had acted properly. It was also devising an anti-bullying policy.

## Boy of 6 is barred for rejecting ultimatum

By ADRIAN LEE

A BOY aged six was excluded from school after he refused to sign a contract guaranteeing his good behaviour.

The parents of Andrew Eaton, of Trafford, Manchester, said it was unfair to ask a child so young to enter into such an agreement. His parents also refused to sign the agreement, which required Andrew to keep the classroom tidy, sit quietly and put his hand up before answering a question.

Karl and Heather Eaton described the contract as "an ultimatum" from Wellacre Infants School, which then excluded Andrew for persistent bad behaviour. They claim their son has a condition called Attention Deficit Disorder and should not have been expelled before an assessment.

Andrew was accused of throwing school equipment, biting a teacher, interrupting lessons and attacking other pupils. The contract, with a space to sign his name, included the words: "This is a chance to behave well again. If I break that rule again I will have to work in the corridor. My mum and dad and teachers will be sad."

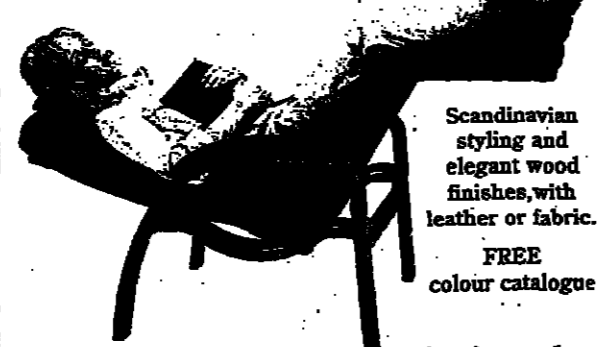
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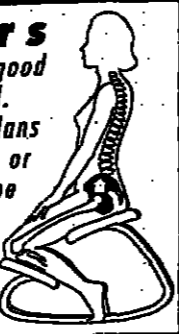
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# Hardy's oldest film saved from a fine mess

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE earliest surviving film featuring Oliver Hardy will have its first public screening for almost 80 years tomorrow, after being rescued from a bonfire in Bradford.

The slapstick short *Something in her Eye* was made in 1915, long before Hardy teamed up with Stan Laurel. Film buffs believed it lost years ago until David Oyston, a Laurel and Hardy fan, stopped a former projectionist from burning it.

Mr Oyston, 58, a machine operator from Wilsden, near Bradford, has since undertaken lengthy inquiries to authenticate the film, which has no credits. Experts in America and at the National Film Archive in London have acclaimed it as the oldest extant example of Hardy's film work.

Tomorrow, when it is shown at a film nostalgia evening at Bradford Library, the audience will include Stan Laurel's cousin Nancy Wardell, who lives in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

The ten-minute single reel was made when Hardy was a 23-year-old solo artist known as Babe, and considered heavier than his later films. It tells the story of four amorous young men who think a woman has winked at

them, when she has dust in her eye. At first Hardy loses out when a rival drops a scorpion down his trousers, but finally he wins the lady.

A former cinema projectionist in Bradford had decided to burn the film from his collection in 1984, because it was decomposing. Mr Oyston said: "I had a hunch that a tape with the fresh-faced Oliver Hardy was something special. I am a Laurel and Hardy fan, but I am not an expert."

"One-reelers were often used as matinee fillers, but they soon wore out because the projectors were not very gentle with them. Techniques changed and longer films came in, so after a few showings it probably would have been put on a shelf and forgotten about."

The National Film Archive has copied it on to 35mm safety film, and given him a 16mm version which he has now transferred to video tape. Old nitrate film is prone to catch fire and inks in the captions cause it to dissolve.

Glenn Mitchell, who has written extensively about Laurel and Hardy, said: "It is a very important film. Laurel and Hardy fans in America had heard of it but no one knew it still existed."



Oliver Hardy in action: the 1915 film was made before he won his star laurels.

# Watchdog attacks ITV for emphasis on crime shows

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV was criticised yesterday for showing too many drama and factual programmes about crime and the police. The Independent Television Commission said such programmes reflected a lack of originality.

In its review of the main commercial television channels in 1995, the commission complained of the "patchy" quality of "reality" shows such as *Police Camera Action*, based on footage from emergency-service and surveillance cameras.

Peter Rogers, the commission's new chief executive, said that he was concerned about the cumulative effect of the emphasis on crime.

Five of the eight new drama series screened by the network were based on crime, including *The Governor* and *Band of Gold*, as were many one-off pilot shows. "There are a number of things which may seem perfectly acceptable in a single programme, but which can be a problem if they start to accumulate," he said.

Mr Rogers acknowledged that police and crime programmes were popular, but he said they militated against the commission's long-term aim of reducing levels of violence on television. One



Hill: said crime had enduring public appeal

pitfall, he said, was exposed last November by *Police Action Live!*, a two-hour slot that followed Saturday night police activity in a number of areas. The expected activity and excitement had failed to materialise. Mr Rogers said: "Programmes involving footage of emergency services can be cheap but with this programme everyone was waiting around for something to happen and it never did; all the drunks stayed at home and watched the programme."

Leslie Hill, chairman of ITV, said that the network's strong crime and police content reflected "the enduring popularity of these subjects

with viewers". He pointed out that the ITV series *Cracker*, about a criminal psychologist, was voted best drama for the second year running at the Bafta awards on Sunday.

Clare Mulholland, the commission's director of programmes, said there was concern about invasion of privacy in "reality" programmes. The blurring of people's faces to protect their identity was not always effective. "While it means that people are disguised from those who don't know them, their neighbours and members of their families might recognise them," she said.

The commission also criticised a move away from factual programmes. Education, religious and arts programming was often tucked away in the margins. ITV's entertainment-led output on Saturday evenings was criticised as "tired".

Channel 4 was praised for retaining a "distinctive character" and for its news and factual output, but was criticised for an increase in repeats and a lack of original material. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4, blamed the statutory funding formula, which requires the station to give a proportion of its profits to ITV.

Television, page 48

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The Independent Television Commission gave this assessment of the commercial terrestrial television services.

**Anglia:** Significant number of co-productions with Meridian resulted in loss of regional identity. The quality of daytime talk show *Vanessa* diminished by emphasis on sex-related subjects.

**Border:** Good range of regional programmes.

**Carlton:** High-quality regional programming, although few innovations. *The Good Sex Guide* denied classification as an educational programme.

**Central:** Supply to the ITV network increased with successful programmes such as *Thief Takers*. Children's shows commended.

**Channel:** Weekly programmes for French and Portuguese speakers continued to provide a distinctive service. Graupian: Live coverage of regional football a welcome initiative. Significant improvement in network contributions.

**Granada:** The single largest supplier to network, with high-quality contributions including *Band of Gold*. The ITC concerned about the decision to move *This Morning* from Liverpool to London.

**HTV:** Weaknesses in regional programmes for HTV West. Few innovative programme formats and ideas.

**London Weekend Television:** Programmes supplied to the network, such as *Blind Date*, were high quality but too few new formats and ideas.

**Meridian:** Coverage of regional arts events less extensive than promised. Disappointing number of contributions to network.

**Scottish:** Small shortfall in amount of Gaelic programming. Contributions to network, such as *Taggart*, limited in number but of high quality.

**Tyne Tees:** Co-productions lacked regional identity. New regional entertainment programme, *The Richard Whiteley Show*, dogged by technical flaws and considered unsatisfactory by viewers.

**UTV:** Audiences for regional news increased in the first full year of ceasefire. Innovations in regional programmes welcomed.

**Westcountry:** Increase in regional co-productions diluted regional identity. However, regional programming praised, particularly *In Our Backyard*.

**Yorkshire:** Contributions to network of mixed quality. Regional identity diluted by too many co-productions.

**GMTV:** Standards of news journalism improved during 1995. Children's programmes better but an over-reliance on cartoons and other acquired material. Continued public complaints about violence in *Power Rangers*, which was dropped from weekdays.

**Channel 4:** *Channel 4 News*, produced by ITN, was commended. Proportion of originally commissioned material declined from 54 to 50 per cent and number of repeats increased, from 40 to 42 per cent of output. Apologies made by the Cabinet minister Willie Waldegrave for a verbal attack on his wife and children, and to Emma Nicholson, invasion of privacy at home by the *Leslie Avengers*.

**Teletext:** Regional news service enhanced. An important gap in the core service filled during year when details of international flight arrivals were added.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 25 1996

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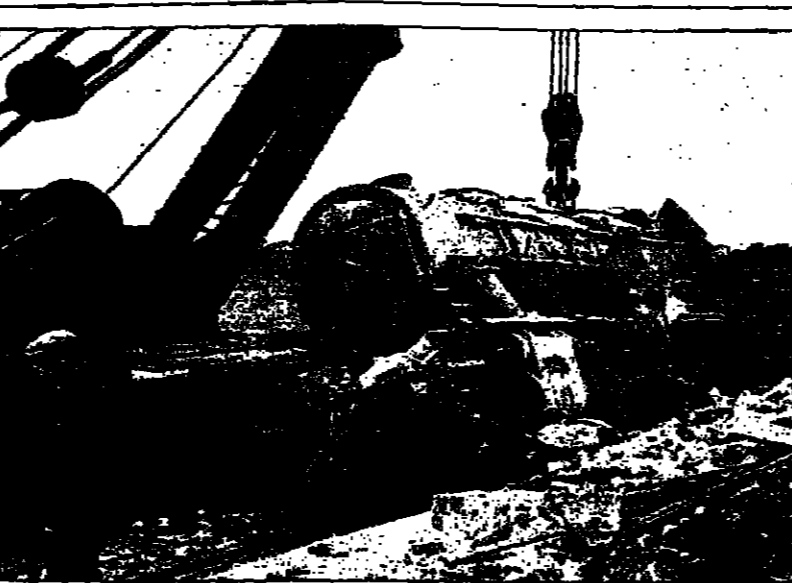
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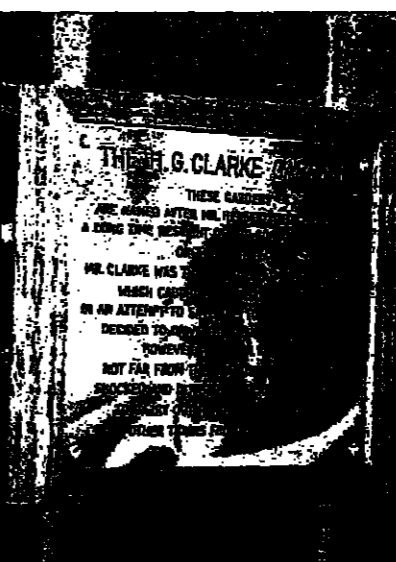
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og attacks emphasis me shows



BUT FOR SUCH MEN AS THESE



Herbert Clarke helped to prevent a train-load of bombs destroying a Cambridgeshire village in 1944. Although the act was marked by a book, it was not until this week that his son, Arthur, saw his father's heroism recognised officially

# Railman who saved village from wartime disaster is honoured

By ROBIN YOUNG  
THE bravery of a wartime railway guard who prevented a train-load of bombs exploding has finally been recognised.

Herbert Clarke, then 59, was on a train which caught fire while transporting 44 500lb high explosive bombs four days before D-Day in June 1944. A spark ignited the first wagon behind the steam-

engine tender as the train approached the station at Soham, Cambridgeshire. Knowing it could explode at any moment, Mr Clarke and the train's fireman, Jim Nightall, 22, spent three minutes unscrewing the hot coupling so that the burning wagon, which contained two bombs packed in straw in wooden crates, could be separated from the rest of the train. The

engine driver, Ben Gimbert, then tried to use his steam locomotive to pull the wagon into a siding away from the village, but within seconds the bombs detonated and blew up a gas storage tank. The blast destroyed the station, damaged 600 homes and killed Mr Nightall and a signalman, Frank Bridges, 42.

Mr Clarke, who was blown onto an embankment by the blast, and Mr Gimbert, who suffered serious shrapnel wounds, survived. As soon as he recovered consciousness, Mr Clarke rushed to put signal detonators on the line to warn an approaching mail train that the wagons containing unexploded bombs were on the track ahead. Mr Gimbert was later awarded the George Cross and Mr Nightall was given the same honour posthumously.

Years later a road in Soham was named Frank Bridges Close in honour of the signalman, but Mr Clarke, of Ipswich, Suffolk, never received any commendation, even though his injuries left him in a wheelchair for much of his life. A sense of injustice led his son, Arthur Clarke, to pursue a 34-year campaign to have his father's heroism officially recognised. His efforts finally succeeded this week

when, after three decades of writing to British Rail, local councils and the Government, a new communal garden close to Ipswich's first railway station was named H.G. Clarke Gardens by the borough council. A plaque donated by BR was unveiled by the Mayor of Ipswich. The honour came 20 years after Mr Clarke's death at the age of 90 in 1976. His son, aged 75, from Stowmarket, Suffolk, said yesterday: "My father saved dozens of lives but he was completely bypassed in the honours. I was determined to get him recognition. It is better late than never."

## Model denies she had affair with 'slimy' millionaire

By KATE ALDERSON  
A FORMER model who claims she was raped by Owen Oyston, a millionaire businessman, yesterday denied having an affair with him. "He came across as being slimy and creepy," she said on the second day of the trial in which Mr Oyston denies raping her and indecently assaulting another teenage model at his country mansion, Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster.



Oyston: former model hated his aftershave

"He smells of Obsession aftershave by Calvin Klein. The smell now always makes me feel sick," she told Liverpool Crown Court. She denied she had ever been on affectionate terms with Mr Oyston, chairman of Blackpool Football Club and owner of regional magazines and radio stations. When asked if she had ever said she intended to marry him, she replied: "After he had raped me? That would be absurd."



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# A northern jewel the Lib Dems have under lock and key

THE Liberal Democrats rule the Harrogate and Knaresborough district council, have held power since 1990; were they to lose every one of the seats up for election next Thursday (they will not) they would retain overall control. Eat your heart out John Major.



Harrogate itself is a jewel of a town with enough parks and greenery to permit crossing from one side to the other without setting foot on Tarmac. There is the National Rhubarb Collection at Harlow Carr Gardens (the second "r" in Carr was added to deter folk in search of second-hand Cortinas). The Royal Baths, the thriving conference centre, more antique shops than you can shake a Georgian salver at. Betty's tea rooms — famous for hot cinnamon toast — and the Drum and Monkey restaurant renowned for the freshness of its fish, the allure of its asparagus hollandaise sauce and the fact that it is so permanently booked that you have to put children down for a table at birth.

In 1991 Robert Banks, local MP since 1974, narrowly avoided deselection; in 1995 he did not. The former Chancellor and Euro-sceptic Norman Lamont will stand for the Tories in a constituency

is whether there are Conservatives who will come out of the woodwork now they have a new candidate.

Lamont has promised to live in Harrogate if elected and his wife's family are from Weatherby — a fact I never heard mentioned when he represented Kingston-upon-Thames. He now goes North every week and there have been sightings of the man on local doorsteps.

I asked him how he was received.

"People are a) pleased and b) surprised."

What are the issues? "New development is doing nothing to preserve the local character. Conservatives would give value for council tax. Lib Dems have introduced a draconian parking scheme, which my party would liberalise."

Councillor Andy Wright represents 50 per cent of the Labour presence on council. He canvasses nightly, says that the Blair factor is greatly helpful. Labour rejects the concentration of resources to the centre of Harrogate and "we are keen on playgrounds and traffic calming and creating equality between the people who pay council tax and conference visitors on whom the money is spent".

At Ashdown House in the



Harrogate, where the tea rooms and antique shops are thriving but the Tories are struggling, with no hope of winning control of the council

parade beside the railway station the Lib Dems have their headquarters. They are led by the charismatic Phil Willis — council chairman and prospective parliamentary candidate.

They think they have got it about right, else they would not remain in power; they would like to be able to raise more money, build an exhibition centre to go with the conference centre and compete with Birmingham's NEC but are in no conflict with Conser-

vative councillors other than on sale of housing stock. They would like elaboration on how the Tories would achieve tax cuts and retain services.

Betty's Tea Room was full. I queued for a table, engaged people in the queue in local election talk. None were voters; 80 per cent were foreign visitors. I had hot chocolate and a Fat Rascal, a large nicely spiced currant bun with lots of butter served by a woman dressed in black skirt and white blouse. In his day

Alan Bennett would have paid one shilling and ninepence. My bill was £4.35.

Walking to lunch, I see that signs of the recession remain: well-located shops are to let, houses for sale. The Drum and Monkey has been full since noon; you can get a brilliant three-course meal for about £12. "If you're not competitive you're dead," says the owner. I get a table, eat oysters (it is my birthday), chat to neighbours. Harrogate is not the place it

was: has lost its genteel image, ceased to be a safe Conservative seat. Lamont is there because it's far enough from Westminster to keep him out of John Major's hair and if he raises his profile and does not soften his anti-Europe stance, he might get in.

The consensus is that the town is now made up solidly of caterers for the conference centre. Just as the theatre struggles because off-duty waiters and chefs don't go there, so is it unlikely that

these folk will vote, especially not in local elections. The Drum and Monkey says it is anti-Europe as are all fish restaurants, and they are not that keen on the parking scheme whereby visiting farmers have to spend £4 for a day's parking in town.

"And local farmers are having a bad time, can't afford that?"

"Good heavens no: they're rolling in it."

□ Saturday: Clement Freud in Stratford-upon-Avon

**HARROGATE FACTFILE**

Until this year there were 60 seats on Harrogate council, with 20 being contested at each election. The seats in next week's election were last contested in 1992, when the Tories won 11, the Lib Dems eight and independents one. After by-elections and the transfer of one seat to York, the Lib Dems and Tories are each defending eight and the Independents three.

Present council: Lib Dem 41; Conservative 12; Labour 2; Independent 4.

The council was Tory-controlled until 1991, when it became hung. The Lib Dems took control within a year after a series of by-election victories and have been increasing their strength ever since. Last year they took four seats from the Tories.

The Tories hold both parliamentary seats with substantial majorities. Phil Willis, the council's Liberal Democrat leader since 1992, will stand against Norman Lamont at the general election.

## Ashdown issues tax truth challenge

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN issued a "truth and trust" challenge over tax last night to both the Government and Labour.

The Liberal Democrat leader said his party will use next month's local elections to fight all "misleading tax promises".

In a speech at Twickenham, he accused the two parties of treating the public with contempt and shattering trust in politics and politicians. He said: "The country cannot have a serious debate about its future, if it cannot have a serious debate about how to pay for things." Labour was

accused of acting like frightened rabbits in the headline of Tory spending attacks.

The Liberal Democrats are also focusing on health during the campaign. Yesterday they produced a survey showing that half of family doctors want to leave medicine for new careers or early retirement.

Almost half the GPs surveyed were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with the job. More than 80 per cent said that they were being asked to meet unrealistic targets.

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# Howarth cleared to stand for Labour

By Jill Sherman  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN HOWARTH, the MP who defected from the Tory party in October, was last night given the go-ahead by Labour's ruling body to seek a seat at the next election.

Under present Labour rules, parliamentary candidates must have been party members for at least two years before standing for local election. But yesterday the National Executive Committee agreed to waive the rule for Mr Howarth, MP for Stratford-on-Avon.

The decision followed speculation about whether the Labour leadership would impose Mr Howarth as a last-minute candidate in a vacant seat just before the election.

Yesterday the NEC announced that, after taking legal advice, it had decided to make an exception for Mr Howarth because of his "right and principled stand" in switching from the Tories.

The decision will encourage other Tories who may have considered defecting but were put off by the two-year rule.

Mr Howarth will be able to apply for any of the 15 to 20 winnable seats in the Midlands and northern England



Alan Howarth after being welcomed to the Labour Party by Tony Blair last year

still to choose a candidate. He said: "The NEC's decision reinforces the welcome that I have received since joining the party. I recognise it is for local Labour parties to select their Parliamentary candidates. I simply hope that there may be a constituency Labour party that will be willing to consider me." After a heated debate the

NEC also decided by a narrow margin not to hold a fresh ballot to choose the parliamentary candidate for Swindon North.

Last September Michael Willis, a former aide to Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, defeated Jim D'Avila, a union official, by 114 votes to 84. But Mr D'Avila took legal action to

secure a fresh ballot amid claims of vote-tampering. A Labour party report found that the procedure had been "fundamentally flawed".

Last month a High Court judge upheld the party's right to impose a candidate. The NEC voted by 14 to 12 yesterday to appoint a special panel to interview the shortlisted candidates again.

# Tory MPs demand moral basis for divorce law

By Alice Thomson and James Landale

TORY backbenchers led the attack on the Government's divorce reforms yesterday, claiming that they would cause a big increase in marital breakdowns.

Edward Leigh, a former Trade Minister, urged the Government to scrap plans to introduce no-fault divorces after one year. He admitted that Parliament could not stop the disintegration of marriages but said it could lay down the "moral cornerstone".

He said the Lord Chancellor's Bill gave divorce on demand and people would be able to prove irrevocable breakdown of marriage just by saying, "I divorce you".

"The concept of fault should be retained not because we want to say 'you are guilty, you should admit it and battle up bitterness in a marriage. But it serves a purpose sometimes to say 'I'm sorry, I was wrong'. We all know if you try to solve problems on the basis of no pain, no shame, no apology, perhaps it will make it even more difficult to start again and rebuild a relationship."

Although the main purpose of the Bill was to try to get rid of acrimony in divorce proceedings, as presently drafted it would not achieve that aim.

"If you bring in no-fault divorce, what about the bitterness of the injured party?" He also gave a warning of the "catastrophic effects" of

divorce on children. "Our law in this area for the best part of 2,000 years has been based on our Judeo-Christian inheritance. Do we wish to sweep that away?"

Dame Angela Kumbold, a vice-chairman of the Tory party, said the Bill should concentrate on making the marriage contract more solid, not less. "Is the message we really want to give to the nation that marriage vows mean nothing?"

Sir Michael Neuberger, a former Tory minister, said: "The removal of fault is equal to saying there is no contract, therefore there can be no breach of contract."

Elizabeth Peacock, Tory MP for Batley and Spens, said: "What's being proposed is that a couple gets married on a Saturday and if on the same day

they take out a finance agreement for 24 months, they have a firmer commitment to that finance agreement than to the marriage, and it's nonsense."

But Patrick Nicholls, Tory MP for Teignbridge and a former divorce lawyer, disagreed. "One thing I learnt fairly quickly was that the pit of misery and unhappiness which two people locked in deadlock in matrimony can cause each other is absolutely bottomless," he said.

He said he understood why Mr Leigh wanted to reintroduce the fault concept. But he had seen how fault was used. "In practice, if you have to produce a fault, you will pull, as if out of a hat, a fault."

Timothy Devlin, Tory MP for Stockton South, who has divorced and remarried, told Mr Leigh his argument was

based on a fundamental fallacy. "Currently, the actual round for divorce is irrevocable breakdown of the marriage, which is merely proved in five different ways, including fault. So at the moment, we already have no-fault divorce," he said.

Sir Edward Heath, Father of the House, rejected Mr Leigh's demand for a restoration of fault in divorce proceedings. "It breeds perpetual discontent and affects the children in particular." He added that religious MPs should be wary of imposing their beliefs on the public.

John Patten, the former Education Secretary, said the number of divorces would equal the total of marriages in 2020 if the Bill went through.

Michael Allison, Tory MP for Selby and a Church Commissioner, said: "It is a eunuch of a Bill in relation to fault. All we ask is that the reality of fault is specified, put up front... so that reconciliation can get to work and be effective."



Leigh: concept of fault should be retained



Nicholls: need to blame leads to 'pit of misery'

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: business debates: education and employment questions; Family Law Bill, committee; National Health Service (Repeal) Bill, committee; Health Service Bill, committee; Law Reform (Year and a Day Rule) Bill, second reading; Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, committee. TODAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister; Education and Employment Bill, Lords amendments; Charwell Tunnel Rail Link Bill, remaining stages; in the Lords: Northern Ireland (Stages in Negotiations) Bill, all stages.

## Crusading spirit of times past that new Labour lacks

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Many Labour supporters regard the next election as primarily an opportunity to end the long Tory era rather than as the start of the New Jerusalem. Expectations are low, and have been deliberately lowered by Tony Blair to avoid later disappointment and charges of betrayal.

There is no sense of a crusade. The contrast with the mood before the Labour victories of 1945 and 1964 is highlighted in a series of essays by a group of Labour sympathisers, academics and industrialists entitled *What Needs to Change*, edited by the Labour MP Giles Radice.

It complements the recent insider analysis, *The Blair Revolution*, by Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle, and *Options for Britain*, a series of essays on policy options produced after a Nuffield College conference last year.

The new book reflects the realist/pragmatic strand in centre-left thinking on everything from the new working environment (Charles Handy) via competitiveness (David Sainsbury) to crime and punishment (Stephen Turnim) with level-headed views on health, education and Europe. The emphasis is mainly on lessening the social divisions produced by the Thatcher-Major years rather than big leaps forward. The authors believe that the State can have a beneficial role, but in a more limited way than before the 1980s.

Lord Young of Dartington, the author of Labour's 1945 manifesto, argues that the party's victory then was built on three coalitions — the first of ideas between the working-class socialist tradition and Liberals like Keynes and Beveridge; the second between radicals and patriotism; and the third between intellectuals, thinkers and planners on the one hand, and practical politicians on the other. He believes a coalition of ideas is to some extent in place now, but argues that the Left has not come to terms with the radical policies needed to provide more jobs and greater security. I am less sure that there is wide support for big shifts in policy as opposed to a change of party in office.

Peter Riddell

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# Cleaner Thames lures elusive otter towards London

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

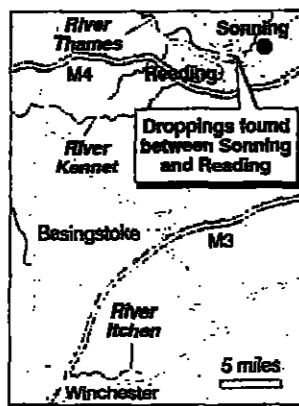
AN OTTER has been exploring the Thames just 40 miles upstream from London for the first time in three decades. The finding confirms a dramatic improvement in water quality, raising hopes that the animals could be back in the capital during the next century.

The otter spotted near Reading is thought to have been a male marking out territory for possible recolonisation, after travelling in from Hampshire or Warwickshire.

The animals disappeared from vast areas of the country with the onset of chemical pollution in the early 1960s and are classified as an endangered species. Britain is now believed to be the only nation in western Europe where the otter population is increasing.

Mark Satinet, an otter project officer with the Government's Environment Agency, found otter droppings, or spraints, on the river bank near Reading, after a member of the public reported that an otter had been seen in the river. More spraints have been found over the past two weeks between Reading and Sonning. The findings are some 30 miles further downstream than previous sightings on tributaries in the Cotswolds.

Alistair Driver, conserva-



He said the finding increased hope that otters would be frolicking in the river at Westminster by the early 21st century: "They were in the Thames in central London in the 1800s. One was even killed in St John's Wood."

Populations of otters crashed all around England in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Numbers were reduced by otter hunts with dogs, but scientists and wildlife experts believe that the introduction of pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin poisoned them. These chemicals are banned and, despite being highly persistent, residual amounts found in fish and rivers are returning to levels low enough for otters to survive.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust survey, which will be published in May, indicates that 7,500 otters are alive in Britain, with the main concentrations in Scotland, the Shetlands and Wales.

North American mink, escaped from fur farms, have been linked with the animal's decline, but the survey indicates that, as water quality improves, otters push out mink from sites.

Dr Don Jeffries, a former member of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, has been carrying out a nationwide survey of otters on behalf of the Vincent Wildlife Trust.



On the scent: Alistair Driver says spraints prove the return of the otter, below, to lower reaches of the Thames

recent years. The Thames and its lower reaches have remained a lofty ambition for conservationists.

Experts suspect that the Reading otter might have entered the Thames via the rivers Kennet, Pang and Enborne from a population in the River Itchen in Hampshire. It might also have made its way from the Avon at Stratford.

The nocturnal animals are rarely seen by humans. They can travel up to ten miles cross-country to move from one river catchment area to

another. They can travel over 400 yards under water at more than 7mph.

Dr Jeffries said there may be more than one otter near Reading. Males tend to leave extensive marks such as those found only to stake out territory when there are rivals in the area. He said the lessons on re-introductions, habitat management and conservation learnt in Britain might prove invaluable to countries such as the Netherlands, Germany and France.

Leading article...



## Teacher fined for lab blast

A science teacher was fined £1,100 for an experiment that injured two pupils. Peter Beagan, 50, poured water into a jar, not realising there was a chemical residue inside, and it exploded. Two pupils aged 15 at Rhyll High School, Colwyn, were treated for burns. Prestatyn magistrates were told. Beagan, of Gronant, has been suspended since the incident in May. He admitted failing to follow guidelines and exposing pupils to risk.

## Viscount's injury

Viscount Weymouth, 21, who was injured in the collapse of a hostel in Delhi that killed his girlfriend, best friend and 15 other people, is being detained in hospital with injuries to the vertebrae in his neck. His family had hoped that he might fly home soon.

## Team spirit

Manchester United is to sell an "own label" whisky, featuring its Red Devil coat of arms, in bars at Old Trafford. Alcohol watchdogs fear that the brand, which will also be available at supermarkets and off-licences, could encourage under-age drinking.

## Two charged

Two men were charged with the murder of Kathleen Hempall, 40, a midwife found stabbed to death in her home in Lincoln 19 months ago. Perry Calvert, 20, and Alan Boulter, 20, both from the Lincoln area, will appear before magistrates on June 3.

## DIY death

A man was killed by an electric shock as he tried to fix his washing machine. Julie Goulding, 30, said her husband Mark, 32, had refused to call in professionals when the machine broke down in their Bristol home, flooding the floor with water.

## Under a cloud

Firemen were called to a fire station when burnt toast set off the alarm bells. A toaster caused clouds of smoke after crews left Cardiff central fire station on an emergency. Office staff were evacuated until a crew from nearby Roath unplugged the toaster.

# Born Free bid revives dream of wildlife haven on author's isle

By Gillian Bowditch

THE last island home of Gavin Maxwell, author of *Ring of Bright Water*, was hastily withdrawn from sale yesterday after the Born Free Foundation came up with a proposal to turn it into an otter sanctuary.

Eilean Ban, the "White Island" that Maxwell intended to turn into a wildlife haven, was due to be auctioned in Glasgow yesterday by the Scottish Office, which had placed a reserve price of £40,000 on it.

But ministers withdrew it at the last minute after the Born Free Foundation, which was established by the husband



and wife team of Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, stars of the film *Ring of Bright Water*, submitted details of its conservation plans.

*Ring of Bright Water* tells how Gavin Maxwell acquired a pet otter, gave up his job in London and moved to a

remote cottage in the Western Highlands.

Yesterday William Travers, the son of the founders and now a director of the foundation, said: "An otter sanctuary is one option we are looking at. It would be nice if we could fulfil some of the plans which Gavin Maxwell had for the island before his death. We want to look at the island in the holistic sense and from a historical perspective."

The tiny island between Kyle of Lochalsh and the Isle of Skye, would hardly be recognised by Maxwell today. It had remained unchanged for centuries until the Scottish Office bought it as a prop for the Skye Bridge. Now the

bridge cuts in half the 2½-hectare island. Lorries and coaches thunder past the cottage where Maxwell watched his otters. Protesters opposed to the tolls on the Skye Bridge occupied the island this week and had planned to disrupt the sale.

Mr Travers said he would ask environmental consultants to report on whether the foundation's plans for the island were feasible, given the presence of the bridge.

Eilean Ban was home to Maxwell for 13 months before his death from cancer in 1969. His white-washed slate-roofed cottage still stands but has been allowed to fall into disrepair. Teko, Maxwell's

last otter, is buried on Eilean Ban, where an inscribed stone commemorates the animal.

Richard Frere, who visited Maxwell regularly and who wrote the biography *Maxwell's Ghost*, said: "I think he particularly liked Eilean Ban because it was a small, heathery island and very wild."

"It was completely without grass and reminded him of his childhood home at Elrig in the Borders. He was trying to encourage elders on the island and had plans to open it as a small wildlife sanctuary, but then he became ill and the plans were shelved. When he died I had to sell the cottage and the land to pay some of the debts."



Eilean Ban, now bisected by the Skye Bridge

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# BAFTA backs 21 winners from the BBC

**12**

- Once again, The British Academy of Film and Television Arts has honoured an unrivalled array of BBC programme-makers, performers and contributors with its annual awards. Congratulations to them all.
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| <p><b>SINGLE DRAMA</b><br/><b>PERSUASION</b><br/>Fiona Fyfe<br/>Roger Michell<br/>Nick Dear<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>ACTRESS</b><br/><b>JENNIFER EMILE</b><br/>Pride and Prejudice<br/>BBC 1</p> <p><b>FICTIONAL SERIES</b><br/><b>THE DEATH OF YUGOSLAVIA</b><br/>Norma Percy<br/>Brian Lapping Associates<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT</b><br/><b>THE ARMS BUSINESS SHOW</b><br/>Peter Kessler<br/>Paul Marr<br/>Dominic Brigstocke<br/>Granada Television for BBC North<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>LEW GRADE AWARD FOR A SIGNIFICANT AND POPULAR TELEVISION PROGRAMME</b><br/><b>ANTIQUES ROADSHOW</b><br/>BBC Bristol<br/>BBC 1</p> <p><b>RICHARD DIMBLEBY AWARD FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION ON SCREEN IN FICTIONAL TELEVISION</b><br/><b>JEREMY FAXMAN</b></p> <p><b>TALK SHOW</b><br/><b>PANORAMA INTERVIEW WITH HRH THE PRINCESS OF WALES</b><br/>Martin Bashir<br/>Mike Robinson<br/>BBC 1</p> <p><b>PRODUCTION DESIGN</b><br/><b>WILLIAM DUDLEY BRIAN SYKES</b><br/>Persuasion<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>COSTUME DESIGN</b><br/><b>ALEXANDRA BYRNE</b><br/>Persuasion<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>MAKEUP/HAIR</b><br/><b>DORKA NIEBADZIK</b><br/>Cold Comfort Farm<br/>BBC TV/Thames TV<br/>BBC 1</p> <p><b>PHOTOGRAPHY/LIGHTING</b><br/><b>JOHN DALY</b><br/>Persuasion<br/>BBC 2</p> | <p><b>SPORTS/EVENTS COVERAGE IN REAL TIME</b><br/><b>VE-DAY COMMEMORATIONS</b><br/><b>LIVE COVERAGE</b><br/>Peter Hyton Cleaver<br/>Neil Eccles<br/>Philip S Gibby &amp; team<br/>BBC 1/2</p> <p><b>COMEDY PERFORMANCE</b><br/><b>MARTIN CLINES</b><br/>Men Behaving Badly<br/>Hartwood Films<br/>BBC 1</p> <p><b>ARTS PROGRAMME/SERIES</b><br/><b>HUW WHELDON AWARD</b><br/><b>CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION</b><br/>John Weyer<br/>David Hinton<br/>Illustrations Television<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>DENNIS POTTER AWARD</b><br/><b>ROY CLARKE</b></p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME (FACTUAL)</b><br/><b>SMOOTH CHANGE</b><br/>Roy Milani<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>LLOYDS BANK PEOPLE'S VOTE FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME</b><br/><b>THE X FILES</b><br/>20th Century Fox TV<br/>BBC 1/2</p> <p><b>SOUND - FICTION/ENTERTAINMENT</b><br/><b>JOHN TAYLOR CRAIG IRVING</b><br/>TIM HUDNOTT<br/>PETE COLLINS<br/>CHRIS GRAVER<br/>Loved Up (Love Bites)<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>EDITING - FICTION/ENTERTAINMENT</b><br/><b>TREVOR WATTE</b><br/>Go Now (Love Bites)<br/>Revolution Films in association with BBC Worldwide<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>GRAPHIC DESIGN</b><br/><b>JANE WYATT IAIN GREENWAY</b><br/>Christmas Animations<br/>BBC 2</p> <p><b>ORIGINAL TV MUSIC</b><br/><b>PERSEUS SAMS</b><br/>Persuasion<br/>BBC 2</p> |
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# 'We are staying in Europe, but what kind of Europe?'

Excerpts from the Prime Minister's speech to the Institute of Directors yesterday

FOR the last 30 years Europe has been the great explosive issue of British politics. Our membership of the EC was confirmed in a referendum in 1975. Today there are still some that question that membership in each political party, and in the press.

I understand the concerns and frustrations that lead to that questioning. For years past some have portrayed Europe in only the most negative terms. Every frustration is played up, often inaccurately. Every benefit denied at worst or ignored at best.

But I also see clearly the hard-headed benefits that Britain has gained. And as Prime Minister, I believe it does the country no service to suggest that the only choice we face is either to go along with every demand our partners make, or head for the exit. That is naive and damaging — and just plain wrong.

We are in Europe, and we all know we are staying in Europe. Anyone who seriously

old national ambitions and rivalries. They believe in that integration as passionately as we oppose it.

I understand and respect these views. They reflect the long experience of wars and conflicts across the Continent. But I do not believe they are the right way to develop European co-operation. The nation state lends security, comfort, and familiarity, and people need that more than ever at a time of change and insecurity.

If we ignore those realities, we would increase rather than reduce conflicts and tensions across Europe. We would set at risk all that Europe has achieved. So we are not going down the centralising route.

But I do not seek confrontation. Nor do I expect it. In negotiation, the EU can be tough but, in the end, it must respect and accept the vital interests of all its members.

My personal view is clear. Although there are many things in Europe we would like to change, there is a lot that helps us. Not every decision is exactly what we would have liked: but neither is every decision comfortable for every other country. We aim to build a Europe that is more in our image. If we win

would be against our interests to be part of the Social Chapter. It is not just what is in the Chapter now; it is also a question of what would go in if we signed it. The Social Chapter is not a finite list of specific measures.

Just ask yourself: if all of Europe were in the Social Chapter, wouldn't it be more tempting — and less painful — to try to foist the same rules on everyone, rather than put your own house in order? Of course it would, and that's why we shouldn't sign it. The Social Chapter could make jobs one of our fastest growing export businesses.

At Maastricht I negotiated an opt-out from the Social Chapter. That opt-out will remain.

Mr President, I want Europe to succeed. But I don't believe it will unless it faces the tough decisions necessary to win in tomorrow's world. Paying lip-service to the free market isn't good enough. You need the strength of conviction and belief to trust it and let it work without unreasonable fetters. You have to be able to bear the fire of short-term unpopularity to win long-term success.



John Major delivering his speech on Europe at the Institute of Directors in London yesterday

## 6 What would be the effect on exporting companies if we left?

the arguments to build a Europe of nation states, all of Europe will benefit. Equally, if others choose to go in a direction that we reject, they need to recognise that we will stand our ground and will not follow them.

We have nothing to gain if the market on our doorstep goes into decline. And if it does not put competitiveness at the top of its agenda, it will decline. That's why I regret so much that Europe has not yet completed the single market.

Europe as a whole is never going to compete and win in the world if it cannot even bear competition in its home market. So Europe must proceed to complete the single market as soon as possible.

The difference between our employment costs and Europe's is stark. For every £100 he pays in wages a British employer has to add £18 in non-wage costs. Quite enough. But in Germany it is £32, in Spain £34, in France £41, and in Italy £44. That's a measure of the cost of excessive regulation.

And that cost is why it

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And that cost is why it

# Bundesbank lectures EU single-currency laggards

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

EUROPEAN Union countries last year slipped further away from the Maastricht single-currency targets, according to the German Bundesbank.

"In order for convergence criteria to be met in 1998, it is imperative that the ground-work be appropriately laid," Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, wrote in a preface to the annual report, published yesterday.

The Bundesbank will be the single most important German voice in determining whether European states have met the convergence criteria on the basis of 1997 performance. The report showed that it is taking seriously its role as umpire.

Britain, measured by the Bundesbank's 1995 figures, did not meet two of the four Maastricht criteria. The inflation rate of 3.5 per cent (or 3 per cent at the partly harmonised consumer price index) was above the 2.7 per cent target. Public indebtedness as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) was improving but, at 5.1 per cent, was still above the Maastricht target of 3 per cent. However, the yield on long-term public bonds in Britain was well within the Maastricht ceiling, and so too was gross public debt as a percentage of GDP.

The Bundesbank concentrated on prodding European states that are keen to sign up for monetary union but are still lagging behind. Six coun-

tries, including Britain, missed the inflation target but the bank notes that everybody had made "notable progress".

It says: "Far less satisfactory was the progress towards consolidating public finances. Most member states made some impact on their budget spending in 1995, but only three countries — Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg — succeeded in bringing their state indebtedness below the 3 per cent deficit criterion."

The main thrust of the report was to urge Germany to cut radically its public spending. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, is aiming for cuts of more than £20 billion and was trying yesterday to win the acceptance of trade unions for some of his more drastic proposals.

Only Germany, France, Britain and Luxembourg met the gross public debt criterion at a maximum of 60 per cent of gross domestic product. The Bundesbank was at its most schoolmasterly on this issue. "Rather than putting in periodic efforts, it is essential that convincing and credible concepts be worked out to ensure permanent savings," it said.

The Bundesbank also said the current 15 per cent fluctuation margins for currencies in the European exchange rate mechanism should not be used to gauge whether a country was ready to join European monetary union. "The currently applicable

fluctuation margin of plus or minus 15 per cent cannot by any means be taken as a measuring stick," it said. The report reminded aspirant members of the monetary union that they must first be members of the ERM and have maintained "normal fluctuation margins" for at least two years.

The report comes amid a fierce internal German debate about the future of monetary union. Herr Kohl insists that the convergence criteria and the start-up date for monetary union must be strictly adhered to.

However, most bankers and economic experts claim that there will have to be a choice between diluting the criteria or delaying the start-up date.

The debate was fuelled yesterday by Professor Ernst-Moritz Lipp, a director of the Dresdner Bank, who said he was convinced that neither Germany nor France would be able to meet the deficit criterion in 1997. He was sure, however, that monetary union would go ahead on schedule in both countries. "If they do not fulfil the deficit criterion, then there will certainly be a discussion as to whether 3.5 per cent or 3.8 per cent is sufficient to meet the entry criteria." He said that Germany and France would not allow monetary union to fall because of a marginal divergence from one of the Maastricht targets.

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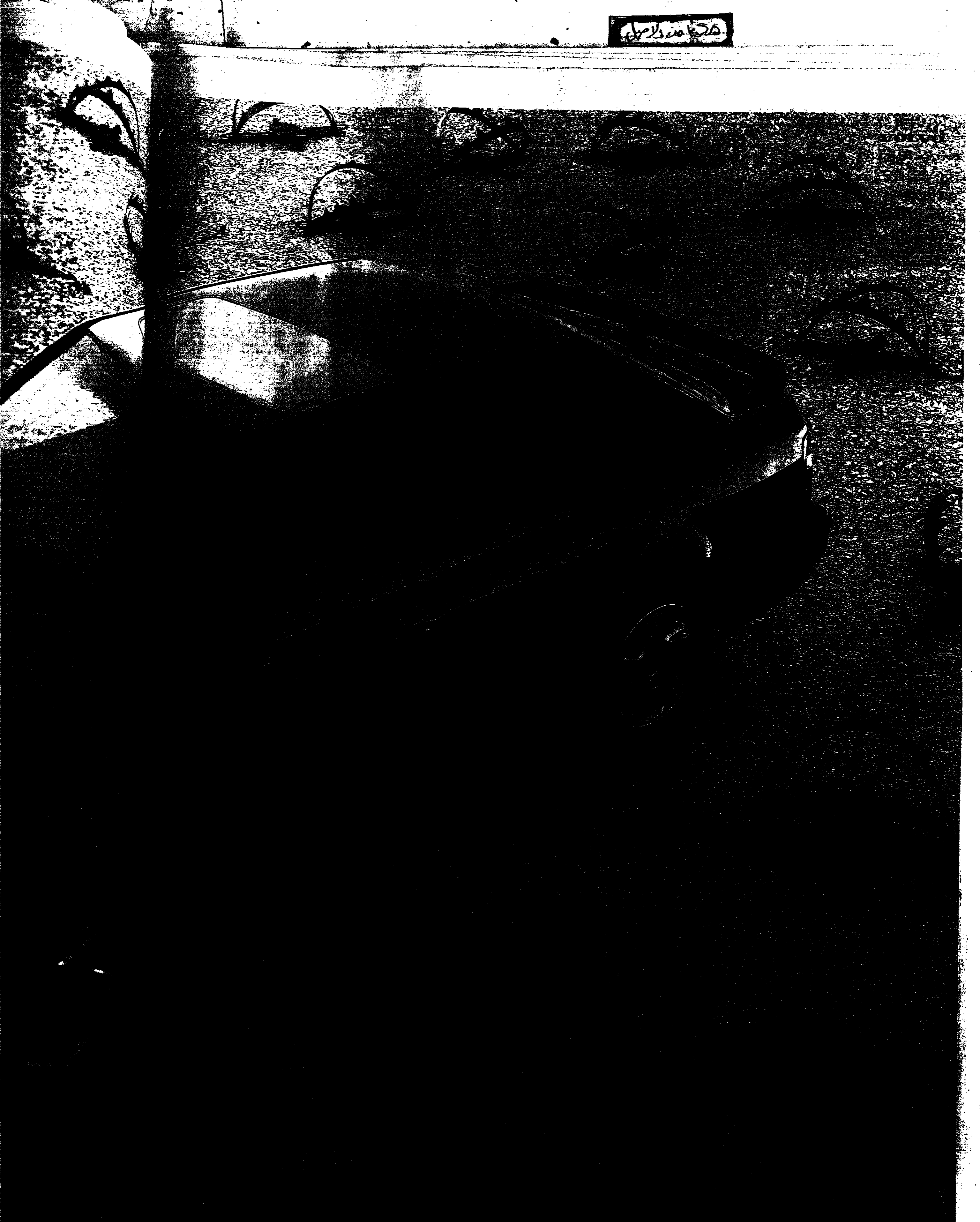
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# Russians recycling weapons systems

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE cream of Russia's defence engineers continue to devise advanced weapons concepts, but with little chance of ever getting the new designs into production, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The "allegedly new designs", introduced since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, were almost always modifications of existing systems.

In its annual survey of security-related events around the world, the London-based institute said the rapid decline of the former Soviet military-industrial system appeared to have passed "the point of technical collapse".

"With only a handful of exceptions, the broad capabilities that sustained the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War have virtually disappeared... what remains is a huge industrial potential to mass-produce weapons of 1970s and early 1980s vintage," the IISS survey said.

Russian engineering teams "retain the ability to promote highly advanced weapons concepts and, in some cases, they can delineate innovative designs, but the ability actually to produce sophisticated new weaponry has all but disappeared".

The IISS survey said: "Development is proceeding on a completely new tank and on other systems, including a Stealth fighter, but there is no evidence of the industrial wherewithal to take such plans beyond the prototype stage."

With its entire defence budget for 1996 planned at 80,000 billion roubles (£11.13 billion), there were minimal funds for production. Only about 20,000 billion roubles were available for equipment procurement.

"Much of this budget must be spread thinly to sustain over five million workers still employed by over 2,000 defence plants," the survey said. To help sustain the aerospace industry, Russia was dependent on winning export sales.

□ Strategic Survey 1995/96, Oxford University Press, £20.

# Death of Dudayev leaves Chechens in power vacuum

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A BITTER and possibly bloody power struggle is expected among clan Chechen guerrilla chiefs as the rebel movement tries to fill the power vacuum left by the death of its leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The breakaway republic has announced three days of mourning for Dudayev, 52, who died during an airstrike on Sunday night near the village of Gekhi Chu, 20 miles south of Grozny. As he was buried yesterday, many Chechens were already wondering which of the disparate group of mountain fighters would emerge to head the independence struggle.

The rebel authorities, who control a string of villages south of the capital, Grozny, and the sympathy of most Chechens, have announced that Dudayev's deputy, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, will lead the movement for now.

The burly former writer, 44, is best known for his unwavering loyalty to Dudayev and his



Yandarbiyev: named as temporary successor

hardline views, rejecting compromise with Russia. Yesterday he vowed to continue the fight. "The tragic death of the first President of Chechnia has not broken the Chechen people and it is ready to continue... its struggle," Tass quoted him as saying.

However, Mr Yandarbiyev

is not considered powerful enough militarily or influential enough among clan leaders to head the separatist movement at a critical period, when it must decide whether to fight or negotiate.

The two Chechen commanders expected to emerge as leaders are Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the rebel forces, and Shamil Basayev, the popular and flamboyant field commander. In an interview earlier this month with the daily newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, Mr Maskhadov, a former Soviet army officer, confirmed his moderate views and willingness to negotiate with Russia.

"This war is useless. There can be no victors. We must look at the future realistically," he said. The commander, credited with building the Chechen forces into one of the most formidable guerrilla armies of modern times, distanced himself from terrorist operations and said he was willing to resume peace efforts broken off last summer.

In contrast Mr Basayev, who commanded the raid into the southern Russian town of Budennovsk last summer, is totally uncompromising and has given repeated warnings that he is prepared to resort to terrorist acts inside Russia unless its forces pull out.

The leadership battle will depend to a large extent on how the Kremlin responds to Dudayev's death. President Yeltsin, who arrived in Chechnia yesterday, said the peace drive would go on. "With or without Dudayev, all the same we will settle everything in Chechnia peacefully," he told Tass.

Last month the President announced a peace initiative to end the 16-month conflict, which envisaged a partial pull-out of Russian forces and talks via an intermediary. If the Russian leader is serious, and can rein in belligerent generals, Dudayev's removal could give him the chance to reopen dialogue.

A deal before June's presidential elections would be a huge asset. But there is a real fear that the rebel movement could splinter into rival groups.



Dudayev: never lived in his homeland Chechnia until he became leader in 1991

# Rebel with fanatical self-belief

By THOMAS DE WAIL

A HOST of unanswered questions have gone to the grave with Dzhokhar Dudayev. The most intriguing is to what extent the leader of Chechen nationalism was a Soviet general to the end.

Even at the height of the war there was suspicion that General Dudayev, 52, still maintained links with his old comrades in the Russian Air Force. Petr Deinekin, the air force commander, who masterminded the bombardment of Grozny and Chechen mountain villages, admitted recently that he had known the general, although he had "never drunk a glass of vodka with him".

A former aide to the rebel President tells the story of how he planned a trip to Lithuania in 1992 by ringing his air force friends. They cleared an air corridor for him across Russia.

Dudayev grew up in Kazakhstan in the 1940s and 1950s, along with the rest of the Chechen population exiled there by Stalin, and never lived in Chechnia until he became leader in 1991. His school was the Soviet military,

where he was regarded as a loyal officer who scrupulously carried out orders to bomb Afghanistan.

His wife, Alla, is a Russian living in Estonia. His poor command of the Chechen language was one reason why he co-opted Zelimkha Yandarbiyev, a poet and one of his likely successors, to be his Vice-President.

Yet his proud demeanour and fanatical self-belief tapped a rich vein in the Chechens, who in 1991 were emerging from years of persecution and humiliation by the Soviet authorities.

# EU rules on coach seat belts

Brussels: Seat belts must be installed for passengers in all new European coaches and minibuses by 2001, according to a European Union agreement this week that ends years of squabbling over road safety (Charles Bremner writes).

Under the new directive, all new-model coaches must carry two-point belt systems and strengthened seats from October next year. Two more years will be allowed for the installation of belts in new vehicles of existing models. New model minibuses will be required to have three-point belts from October 1999 and all new vehicles will come under the rule two years later.

# Doctors strike over reforms

Paris: The French Cabinet pushed through three decrees to rein in the expensive and unwieldy healthcare system as doctors went on strike in protest (Ben Macintyre writes). The reforms complete an overhaul of the social security system outlined by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, last autumn, which prompted the worst strikes in France since 1968. Doctors' unions say the latest moves will ration care and turn doctors into "accountants".

# Airport flaw

Düsseldorf: The airport at Düsseldorf did not conform to German fire regulations when a blaze killed 16 people on April 11. All the dead had inhaled toxic fumes, which made scores more people ill. The North Rhine-Westphalia Prime Minister, Johannes Rau, said flammable material was used in passenger terminal false ceilings (Reuters).

# Old lags off rails

Rome: A gang of three grandfathers, posing as elderly gentlemen, looted and pick-pocketed travellers at one of Rome's central train stations, *La Stampa* newspaper said. Confessing their crimes, the gang-leader, Domenica Panella, 81, said: "But we weren't violent" (Reuters).

# Berlusconi questions election result

Rome: Italy's right-wing alliance yesterday engaged in increasingly bitter recriminations over its defeat in last Sunday's election, with Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and leader of the conservative Forza Italia party, complaining that the votes which delivered a centre-left victory "did not add up" (Richard Owen writes).

"There seem to me to be an impossible number of spoiled ballot papers, not least in areas like Emilia Romagna," Signor Berlusconi said. Emilia Romagna is a traditionally left-wing area and the home region of Romano Prodi, the economics professor from Bologna who is set to become Italy's next Prime Minister when parliament convenes on May 9.

Signor Berlusconi, who was Prime Minister for nearly eight months in 1994, has spent the past three days studying the election returns and declared that the ballot did not reflect voters' true intentions. Alberto Michelini, a Forza Italia politician who is still contesting his narrow defeat in last year's regional election in Lazio, said: "It's easy to spoil a ballot paper: you just scratch it."

Leaders' early test, page 38

# War crimes tribunal releases dying general

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE UN war crimes tribunal yesterday gave up one of its star witnesses to the atrocities committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina because he is dying of cancer.

General Djordje Djukic, the man responsible for the shelling of Sarajevo which killed an estimated 10,000 civilians, was released on humanitarian grounds.

General Djukic, 62, the most senior Bosnian Serb held by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, has terminal pancreatic cancer. Dutch medical experts say he has weeks to live. A defence request for all charges against General Djukic to be dropped on the

ground of insufficient evidence was dismissed.

Judge Richard Goldstone, the Chief Prosecutor, reluctantly agreed to the general's release, arguing that he would be unable to participate in his own defence.

War crimes investigators had hoped to use him as a test case for the doctrine of "command responsibility", under which senior officers are held accountable for acts carried out by their subordinates. They also hoped that he would give evidence against Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Raiko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army.

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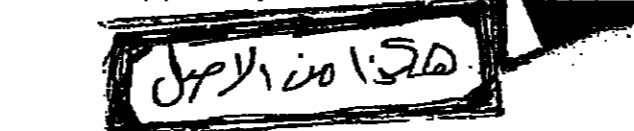
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# Buyers pay dream prices for a little of Jackie O

## Feverish bids to capture stardust of a First Lady

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A BIDDING frenzy on the opening night of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis auction confirmed the extraordinary esteem in which the late First Lady is still held, and said much about America's cult of the personality.

Sotheby's pronounced itself amazed by the blizzard of bids for even the smallest souvenirs of "Jackie O". A simple tape measure, three inches in diameter, sold to a Manhattan fashion designer for \$42,500 (£28,000) excluding commission. That was a tenth of the sum paid for President Kennedy's favourite rocking chair, which went to an anonymous buyer for \$400,000 (£265,000).

Yet even that — for a thin-cushioned chair which had been estimated to fetch \$3,000 — was not the most extravagant gesture on a night of sybaritic spending. A cigar lover, Marvin Shanken, paid well over half a million dollars for a walnut humidor which

was given to President Kennedy by Milton Berle.

Mr Berle, who had been hoping to buy back the humidor, said: "I never dreamed it would be worth that much. But I think it's terrific." Mr Shanken said that he had long been "in love" with President Kennedy — "a great man and a great smoker". It was a great night, too, for those who oppose New York's draconian anti-smoking policies, and Mr Shanken triumphantly (and illegally) lit himself a fat stogie to celebrate.

Bidders were encouraged by a feverish atmosphere in the auction hall and were rewarded with applause and back-slapping for feats of high expenditure. A dowdy lamp used in the former Mrs Kennedy's White House suite went for \$42,500 (£28,000). "Is the bulb included?" quipped an onlooker. The answer was no.

Amid increasing hubbub, Mrs Onassis's dressing table set sold for \$35,000 (£23,000). A Robert Rauschenberg portrait of JFK fetched \$220,000 (£146,000), and her baby grand piano was bought for \$150,000 (£100,000) by a Mrs Pat Baher as a gift for her husband, despite the fact that Mr Baher is no musician.

Proceeds from the sale will go to Mrs Onassis's two children, Caroline and John Kennedy, who did not attend. The Kennedy children have said that they hope the astonishing trove of possessions, some precious, others touchingly mundane, will take with them to the outside world a little of their mother's spirit. For bidders, there was the



Rocking the record books: JFK in his favourite chair, a thin-cushioned seat that fetched \$400,000. Like so much in the auction, its price raised gasps

exclusive hope that by buying something once owned by Jackie O, they could acquire some of her sheen.

More than 90,000 absentee bids were received, and telephones at Sotheby's New York offices were jammed. At least 1,000 people were admitted to the sale hall, with auxiliary rooms in Los Angeles and Chicago, and by the end of the evening the air in the hall was fetid. Bidders came from London, Paris and Tokyo, with a discernible sprinkling of South Americans.

The first of eight sale sessions, comprising 71 lots, made \$4,477,700 (about £3 million) not including auction house fees. Sotheby's originally expected the entire sale to make only \$5 million. The estimates for lots were preposterously low with, for instance, a little 19th century footstool going for 290 times its guide price of \$100.

Some bidders in the hall on Tuesday night wondered if Sotheby's stunted estimates in order to attract bids and generate a sense of expectation. Others argued that no sensible auctioneer could have got estimates so badly wrong on purpose.

Yesterday morning New York tabloids expressed their astonishment at the success of the sale in characteristically robust fashion. "Jackie Dough" cried the *Post*. The *Daily News*: "Off their rockers".

The most spectacular bids may yet be to come. Mrs Onassis's jewellery, including the pearl necklace once grabbed by the infant John-John and the vast diamond given to her by Aristotle Onassis as an engagement present, are expected to attract sums reaching the millions.

Sale of century, page 19

## Dynasty's fortune secured by grand 'garage sale'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AMERICA has no Royal Family, but has more than made up for it with the Kennedys. Despite all the philanderings of its menfolk, the ogre-like personality of old man Joseph, Chappaquiddick and a thousand bar bills, the Kennedy clan has a grasp on the American imagination that exceeds all others.

"Jackie O How Could You?" headlines asked when Mrs Kennedy wed the Greek shipping tycoon, Aristotle Onassis, but even that unlikely union did not dent the love America felt for the former Jacqueline Bouvier. It was, more than her

beauty and her position, her aloofness that earned her the lasting fascination of a society used to disposable personalities. She kept the public at arm's length. The desire of ordinary citizens to learn more about her had much to do with the astonishing sums paid for trinkets from her parlour.

There has been speculation about the motives of Caroline and John Jr in selling so many of their mother's possessions. Are they trying to cast off the pelt of history? However, it has been disclosed that when she realised she was dying of cancer in 1994, Jackie Onassis



Rocking the record books: JFK in his favourite chair, a thin-cushioned seat that fetched \$400,000. Like so much in the auction, its price raised gasps

## No snip for cigar lover's best friend

BY LEVIA LINTON

plotted the grand "garage sale" which started in spectacular manner on Tuesday night.

Alexander Forger, Mrs Onassis's lawyer, said this week that while she wanted her private papers to stay with the family, she felt little for her many chattels. "For tangibles, for furniture, tables, rugs, pictures, it was simply another element of property that had served its purpose and now could serve another purpose," he said. So she planned the great sale, the proceeds of which should secure the financial comfort of her children.

More modest humidors, usually lined with cedar wood and costing around £270, are used for temporary storage for 50 cigars.

THAT President Kennedy's humidor sold at auction for \$2 million will not surprise cigar lovers who will spend as much as £10,000 on custom-made cabinets or boxes to keep their cigars fresh.

The best humidors have a special electric humidifying system. Cigars age like wine and the circulating air helps the ageing process, according to Luc Daire, humidor expert at Alfred Dunhill.

More modest humidors, usually lined with cedar wood and costing around £270, are used for temporary storage for 50 cigars.



Jackie O: the focus of a personality cult

## Turkey's coalition shaken as MPs back inquiry into Ciller

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

THE Turkish parliament decided yesterday to throw Tansu Ciller to the wolves — so threatening a ruling coalition not yet seven weeks old.

MPs voted by 232 to 179, a larger than expected majority, to support an opposition motion to investigate the former Prime Minister for "misuse of office" over public tenders.

The motion was brought by the pro-Islamic Welfare Party as part of a promised vendetta to avenge its exclusion from power after December's election. However, some of Mrs Ciller's government partners in the Motherland Party appear to have supported it.

During a bitter election

campaign, Mesut Yilmaz, the Motherland leader, accused her of abusing high office to enrich a coterie organised by her husband, Ozer Ciller. Last March Mr Yilmaz swallowed his pride and pulled out of negotiations with Welfare to form a Government with Mrs Ciller's True Path Party.

The understanding was that Mr Yilmaz would be Prime Minister until the end of this year and Mrs Ciller for the next two. Yesterday's vote may mean she will not get the chance. The launching of an inquiry into her handling of large state electricity contracts could end with her indictment. The investigation alone, how-

ever, means she is disqualified from being a minister.

Yesterday's vote was not on the most serious charge against Mrs Ciller. Many believed the motion was a stalking horse for a graver accusation parliament will consider on May 9 concerning a sealed tender she is accused of having opened improperly.

It remains to be seen if Mr Yilmaz can survive his triumph. Mrs Ciller threatened earlier in the week to pull out of the coalition if the vote went against her.

The one hope for the coalition's survival is for True Path to close ranks and soldier on without Mrs Ciller.

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# Dole takes offensive as Republican 'funk' turns to panic

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Dole campaign is to step up its attacks on President Clinton in an urgent effort to stem a rising Republican panic and erode the President's commanding poll lead before it becomes unassailable.

The Republican National Committee will shortly launch an advertising campaign on behalf of the party's nearly penniless nominee that will portray the President as an incurable liberal.

Bob Dole himself plans to deliver a series of speeches on issues, such as the economy and welfare, designed to draw an ideological contrast between himself and Mr Clinton. "We have got to push Clinton back in his liberal box," one senior Republican operative told yesterday's *Los Angeles Times*.

Mr Dole's advisers are also questioning the wisdom of his plan to campaign from the Senate floor, the so-called "roving strategy". The idea was to rush through a series of popular reform bills which the President would have either to veto and risk public wrath, or sign and let his challenger get the credit. In the event, congressional Democrats and Republican defectors have dealt Mr Dole a series of embarrassing reverses.

Republicans are beginning to fear not only that Mr Clinton will be re-elected, but that the Democrats could even regain the House of Representatives. Their "funk", as Newt Gingrich termed it, has been brought to a head by a string of polls showing Mr Dole now lagging up to 20 points behind Mr Clinton, and by outspoken criticism from other top Republicans.

"The Republican establishment is very down," a senior party strategist said. "The

impact of the polls is starting to build. I predict we will be in a frothing panic by next week."

The polls show Mr Dole trailing the President not only nationally, but by substantial margins in the battleground states of the industrial Midwest, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where the Clinton campaign has been advertising heavily. The Senate leader received no discernible boost from winning the Republican nomination and aides are worried that Mr Clinton's lead will harden and prove insurmountable if it is not eroded by mid-summer.

Earlier this week William Bennett, a leading conservative, broke ranks with a devastating speech in which he called the Dole campaign "incoherent and disorientate" and said the nominee aroused "very little enthusiasm" in the party.

The previous day Bill Kristol, a prominent Republican strategist who edits the conservative *Weekly Standard*, predicted the lacklustre Mr Dole would lose badly and urged conservatives to keep their distance.

The Dole camp calls these critics the "sky is falling crowd", but Mr Kristol insisted he was stating only what many Republicans felt privately.

"I had Republican muckymucks call me up and deplore this kind of criticism, but I had calls from Republican elected officials saying I was right," he told the *Boston Globe*. "Maybe this will jar the campaign."

Tacitly admitting the problem, Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman, said it was time for Mr Dole to "get on offence". The senator and the party "need to make clear what is at issue, and the differences we have with Clinton, in the months between now and the [August] conventions if we are to reach equilibrium by then."

**Campaign boss:** After months of delays, President Clinton has named Peter Knight, a Washington lobbyist and fundraiser, as his campaign manager. Mr Knight, who is chairman of the Democratic National Committee's huge fund-raising gala on May 8, will run the day-to-day operations of the campaign staff. (AP)



Chelsey Thomas, with her parents Lori and Bob, in hospital in Los Angeles before an eight-hour operation to give her the ability to smile

## Girl's \$70,000 operation raises hint of a smile

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE PRICE of a little girl's grin is \$70,000 (£46,000). That is what it has cost for surgery on a seven-year-old child who was born without the facial nerves and muscles needed to smile.

Blonde, blue-eyed Chelsey Thomas, of Palmdale, California, was in stable condition yesterday after an eight-hour operation during which surgeons extracted nerve and muscle

tissue from her leg and placed them in her jaw. If the two-part operation is successful, Chelsey may be able to greet her birthday on June 29 the same way as any other eight-year-old: with deep dimples.

Chelsey was born with a rare condition known as Moebius Syndrome which afflicts 1,000 Americans. "Being unable to smile has numerous problems associated with it, both social and psychological," said Chelsey's surgeon, Avron Daniller, at

Kaiser Permanente Medical Centre, Los Angeles. "We are optimistic that the surgery will help alleviate Chelsey's problems."

The result will not be apparent for at least two months. Complications could occur if the nerve is not strong enough, or if the tissue was damaged during transfer from the girl's leg to her face. American television viewers were able to watch surgeons drawing red lines on Chelsey's rosy but glum face. Lori and Bob Thomas, Chelsey's

parents, decided to proceed with the operations because they were unable to bear the thought of their daughter going through life without her face ever radiating happiness.

The first stage of the surgery was conducted in December and has lifted the left side of her face. When Chelsey arrived at the hospital for stage two she greeted cries of "good luck" with a lopsided grin. "When she has the other half of her smile, she will really be smiling," Mrs Thomas said.

## Chernobyl children inherit mutations

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FAMILIES living in the area contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster ten years ago have twice as many genetic mutations as expected, scientists have discovered. The genetic changes are also found in children born since the accident, showing that they are passed down the generations.

A second study at the Chernobyl site in Ukraine also shows a high rate of genetic mutations in voles, although the species appears to be flourishing.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffries, of Leicester University and one of the team which reported the human genetic changes in *Nature*, said that most experts did not believe that the levels of radioactivity around the plant would have genetic effects.

"This is the first direct evidence for radiation actually causing mutation in human children," Sir Alec said. However, he made clear that the findings did not mean the children would develop dis-

eases such as cancer. "This is all highly preliminary and suggestive, although there does appear to be something going on there," he said.

"It will in the future raise questions about just what is the effect of low, persistent levels of ionising radiation in the environment from one human generation to the next."

Sir Alec's group collected blood samples from 79 families in rural areas of neighbouring Belorussia heavily affected by nuclear fallout from the accident on April 26, 1986. The families all had children born between February and September 1994. As a comparison, they examined 105 British families who were not exposed.

The Belorussian families had twice as many mutations as the British families. The mutations were also clearly handed down from parent to child, and were permanently coded in the youngsters' genes, meaning that they will pass them on to their children.

## Hezbollah determined to carry on Lebanon fight

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HEZBOLLAH pledged yesterday to continue attacks on Israeli troops in their occupied south Lebanon "security zone" - even if a ceasefire were achieved. The threat came as fierce fighting continued for the fourteenth day amid urgent American diplomatic moves to halt the violence.

At the same time there were diplomatic reports that, for the first time, the Lebanese army had begun to take limited action to try to restrain the Hezbollah attacks, leading to claims by officials that some form of ceasefire might be agreed by the weekend.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Iranian-backed leader of Hezbollah (The Party of God), ruled out Washington as a mediator and vowed not to accept any peace pact secured by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State.

As the Islamic militant leader was speaking, salvoes of Katyusha rockets continued to rain indiscriminately across Galilee and Israeli jets

pounded targets close to Tyre, blasting a water pipeline supplying 23 villages in south Lebanon and three United Nations outposts in the region.

"Hezbollah's ink is not ever going to be next to Israel's ink," the Sheikh said, and reports that the Islamic militants' morale has been boosted by the failure of Israel's Operation Grapes of Wrath, now entering its third week, to halt the Katyushas. The fighting has killed more than 150 people and injured over 300, mostly Lebanese civilians.

While his belligerent remarks were further stoking a conflict threatening to expand if Islamic suicide bombers take revenge against Israeli or Jewish targets, Mr Christopher was swallowing his diplomatic pride in Damascus to meet President Assad of Syria after being snubbed 24 hours earlier. He later went into eastern Lebanon to meet Rafik Hariri, the Prime Minister, before returning to Israel.

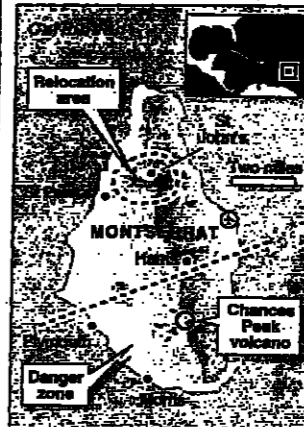
Mr Christopher did little to

disguise his irritation at Tuesday's unexplained refusal by Mr Assad to keep an agreed appointment to discuss Israel's reaction to the single-page US peace blueprint.

Meanwhile, there were ominous signs that Operation Grapes of Wrath was undermining improvements in Israel's standing in the Arab world. President Mubarak of Egypt called the continued pounding of Lebanese targets "an unforgivable sin".

In Israel, backing for the Lebanon blitz remained high as the nation celebrated the 48th anniversary of its independence amid an unprecedented security alert to prevent Islamic revenge attacks.

Washington: President Clinton said yesterday that America was ready to provide emergency aid to Lebanon and implied that the recent crisis may be nearing a ceasefire. (Tom Rhodes writes). "I hope we're quite close," Mr Clinton said before meeting President Hrawi of Lebanon.



Montserrat, a volcanic island in the West Indies, is expected to erupt in a violent explosion. But the island authorities are increasingly concerned about the large amounts of black ash spewing out of the volcano, incinerating everything in its path. More than 5,000 people living on the south of the island were evacuated to the northern sector in April, following advice from British scientists.



Dole: says Clinton is 'incurable liberal'

**Tokyo tells trial for 'ultra'**

**India poll on cast**

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# Tokyo cult leader tells trial of search for 'ultimate truth'

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AT THE start of his trial yesterday, Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult, ducked the question of whether he plotted the last year's nerve gas attack on the Tokyo underground.

Mr Asahara refused to enter a plea to three charges, including one of murder in connection with the sarin gas attack that left 11 people dead and thousands injured in the morning rush hour on March 20, 1995.

When asked how he pleaded, the 41-year-old guru answered with a three-minute exposition of his religious views. "I want to help all the souls on earth to attain the ultimate truth," he said. Mr Asahara was also charged with the killing of an Aum disciple and the illegal production of anaesthetics.

His apparent lack of remorse provoked anger among who lost loved ones in last year's gas attack. "From his

attitude you could not even tell that he was attending a trial," said Tomoko Hirata, 24, who was among those injured. "He looked bored throughout."

Ms Hirata said she wanted Mr Asahara to apologise to his victims. "But I no longer think of him as a human being, so it is probably useless to ask him to do that," she said.

The cult leader fidgeted and stroked his long hair and beard as prosecutors read out the charges and the names of more than 3,800 victims of their gassing and the extent of their injuries. Once grossly overweight, Mr Asahara has lost about 60lb in prison since his arrest last May, according to a police source.

The guru appeared in court dressed in a dark blue prison tracksuit, after his request to wear religious robes was denied by Judge Fumihiko Abe. Prosecutors had objected that the wearing of robes would have an undesirable influence

on cult devotees. About 10,000 Aum members were in thrall of the guru before his arrest, and the authorities fear that Mr Asahara may try to use the trial to somehow control his dwindling flock.

From behind bars, Mr Asahara has smuggled out messages to disciples and once attempted to send locks of his hair and nail clippings for use in religious rituals.

Most of the key figures in the Aum cult, which preaches that the world will end in 1997, are also on trial and some have implicated Mr Asahara in courtroom evidence.

The start of the trial yesterday was delayed when the defendant gave his name as Asahara rather than Chizuo Matsumoto, his legal name. "I throw away that name," he said.

With several of Mr Asahara's followers on the police wanted list, tight security was in force around the



A sketch of Shoko Asahara, the Japanese doomsday cult leader, at the start of his trial in Tokyo yesterday

Tokyo District Court. Officials said the possibility of a "rescue attempt" by fanatical disciples could not be ruled out. The police presence was also intended to deter a revenge attack on the cult leader.

Media coverage was frenzied, with television networks cancelling scheduled programmes to bring day-long coverage of events. Cameras are not allowed in Japanese

courts to broadcast proceedings. Out of more than 12,000 would-be spectators who queued from early morning, only 48 members of the public gained entry to the court in a lottery for seats.

Police say the cult stockpiled arms and operated a biological warfare laboratory and a nerve gas factory in a plot to overthrow the Government and launch a civil war. Mr

Asahara faces 14 more charges in connection with these alleged activities in further trials. With appeals, the legal procedure could drag on for more than a decade.

The cult leader has said he is losing his mind because of the length of his confinement in the Tokyo detention centre. "I feel like an animal," he complained to a member of his 12-man defence team.

However, he apparently finds the food and general conditions more amenable in the detention centre than in police cells where he was held during regular spells of interrogation.

"It's like going back to the zoo from hell," he is quoted as saying, describing the transfer from the cells to the detention centre.

Leading article, page 21

# Dog meat back on the boat to China

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

A FERRY operator phine between Hong Kong and China now includes a popular Chinese snack on its lunch menu: dog.

The move has caused a row between the ferry company and the authorities in Hong Kong, where dog meat has long been banned. It has also renewed fears that dog could be back in Hong Kong restaurants after the handover to the Chinese next year.

Hong Kong officials confirmed yesterday that legal action may be taken against Chu Kong Passenger Transport. But Lee Zi-ying, a Chu Kong spokesman, remained unrepentant, claiming the sale of dog meat was "no different to buying duty-free cigarettes and alcohol".

The sale of dog meat in Hong Kong can incur a fine of up to £500 and six month's jail. Mr Lee said Chu Kong was not breaking the law, since passengers could order the meat only once the ferry was clear of Hong Kong.

# India poll hangs on caste vote

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LUCKNOW

WITH two days before voting begins in India's general election, the outcome is already known: it will be a mess. Nobody can win outright and vast amounts of money will exchange hands in post-poll horse-trading to form a shaky government that will probably not last a full term.

The three main contestants, the Congress Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the ill-fated National Front-Left Front alliance, will carve up most of the seats between them. All eyes will then turn to President Sharma, who will referee the fight to form either a coalition or a minority government. India has never had a national coalition, although it had an unhappy experience with minority government.

All but 20 per cent of the 590

million electorate are defined as "backward" castes, tribals or religious minorities. The two huge northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which together account for nearly a quarter of seats in the lower house, are seeing a revolution that has empowered the "backwards".

Newly assertive backward castes are voting as they wish instead of as high castes tell them. The Congress Party, which has governed for most of the 49 years of independence, has thus been all but destroyed in the two crucial northern states. It nevertheless stands a good chance of forming the next government with the aid of regional parties. In any case, the outcome will be determined in smoky backrooms, and by suitcases of cash.

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Is home or a nursery the best place for your child? We examine three views of a problem many parents are facing

# Living with the guilt

THE MOTHER

KATHY and Steve have a 14-month-old daughter, Anastasia. At 8am each weekday for the past year, Kathy has taken Anna to a local nursery before starting a full day's work. She collects her daughter at 5.45pm.

I knew I'd have to go back to work because we wouldn't have been able to cope on Steve's salary. We advertised in *The Lady* for a nanny and advertised locally for a childminder. Neither alternative really satisfied us. The nannies we spoke to were terribly young or didn't speak good English. We decided on a nursery because we felt Anna would be constantly stimulated. It was a hard decision but when we first visited our chosen nursery, I felt reassured — there was a good staff-child ratio and lots going on. I felt she would be safe and happy, although the thought of leaving her there was hard — in the three months since her birth I had never really been without her.

The best feeling in the world is when I pick her up'

to, I rang after an hour to see how she was and then again at lunchtime — the nursery said I could ring as often as I wanted. I couldn't wait for the clock to go round.

The worst thing is waiting for a call telling you that your child is unwell, or has had an accident. It has happened a couple of times and the guilt is tremendous. You think you should have been there. I remember one morning when Anna had a rash under her arm. It wasn't serious and she wasn't in pain so I took her into the nursery. Even though she was fine I felt so guilty all day that I vowed I would never do that again.

She seems happy there, but it is hard knowing that you are missing your child growing and developing. Anna first crawled at nursery, she took her first step there. They told me when I went to pick her up and I felt proud, but sad that I hadn't been there to see it. Steve and I both felt we'd missed something.

I have photos of Anna in my Filofax so that I can keep her with me during the day.

The best feeling in the world is when I pick her up — she comes running towards me, jumping up and down, rattling at the gate of her play area. She's so excited to see me. On a couple of occasions she's turned round and wanted to go back. It's a very strange thing thinking that she is more attached to the nursery than she is to you.

I'm doing this for her. I want her to have a good quality of life. While I would love to be at home with her, I know she's happy, she's being educated and she's learning to be independent. But it is a sacrifice and the guilt stays with you all the time."

KATHRYN KNIGHT



Fourteen-month-old Anastasia waits for her mum to pick her up from her nursery

# Daycare can benefit babies

THE EXPERTS

Parents in other parts of Europe would be mystified by the debate that erupted yesterday over the merits of nursery education for two-year-olds. As in America, most take it for granted.

In France, the age of entry to the école maternelle has been reduced this year, allowing some children to begin state education at two-and-a-half. Parents drop them off at 8.30am and pick them up at 4.30pm, most worrying more about fatigue than the emotional effects of separation.

Belgium has similar arrangements, beginning at the age of three, while state childcare from an early age has been part of the system throughout Scandinavia for many years. In the United States, private nurseries and crèches cater for children who are only a few months old.

Academics have been arguing for decades about the psychological impact of childcare, but most of the

research has been conducted overseas because British provision has been so scarce. Studies in Sweden and the United States have concluded that there is no evidence of psychological damage that would be an issue. Professor Paddy Holmes, the Ditcham Park headmistress, fears for children who are separated from home for long periods.

Researchers have found advantages in the development of social skills and there is evidence of academic benefits when children start school. In France, where 250,000 two-year-olds attend nurseries, only 10 per cent of those who start at two have to repeat the elementary year at school, compared with 18 per cent who start at four and 30 per cent who have no formal pre-school education.

The age group under discussion has become younger as the debate has gone on. While John Bowlby, whose Attachment Theory is the

seminal work, held that daycare in the first three years could damage, the focus has switched to those under one. More recently, however, two-year-olds has almost ceased to be an issue. Professor Rudolph Schaffer, of Strathclyde University, says: "The research has been virtually unanimous that children benefit from good quality nurseries at quite a young age."

A project, which included figures from both camps and funded by the US Government, reported last week that after examining 1,200 children, more than half of whom were in full-time daycare, academics reached the conclusion that separation from the mother was not harmful, unless both the home and nursery lacked sensitivity. As long as there was a caring atmosphere in one sphere of their lives, children would survive emotionally.

JOHN O'LEARY

## Weighing up what is best

THE NURSERY

WHEN Heidi Clapp opened the Corner House Nursery in west London, she had one strict rule: none of her 14 staff would wear a nursery uniform.

As a former Noddy Nanny, she had come to loathe the regulation chocolate brown shirts that are the trademark of Britain's most exclusive pram-pushers.

Though she thinks that day nursery is not right for every child, Mrs Clapp takes babies from as young as three months old. "We have nine places in our baby room and three staff to look after them," she says. "At present, all the parents of our babies work. Some are doctors, barristers, bankers and journalists. In most cases, the couple needs two salaries in order to keep the lifestyle they want. There are others who prefer their baby to be with other

children rather than at home with a nanny."

The baby room in her Chiswick nursery, which opened in 1991, has mobiles over the cots and music playing. Babies can stay for ten hours, but many parents start their youngsters with half-days. The £10-a-month fees include nappies.

Mrs Clapp, 37, who is married to a BBC manager and has another nursery in Ealing, preaches what she preaches. Her son, Adam, now six, attended the nursery from the age of three months. The benefits are clear, she says, adding: "He always liked mixing with adults and children. I think it benefited him to start here at three months — he is now ad-

vanced for his class at primary school."

Mrs Clapp thinks mothers should not feel guilty about leaving their children at an early age. She says: "Plenty of studies say that so long as the child has formed an emotional base, they can go on to make further emotional ties easily."

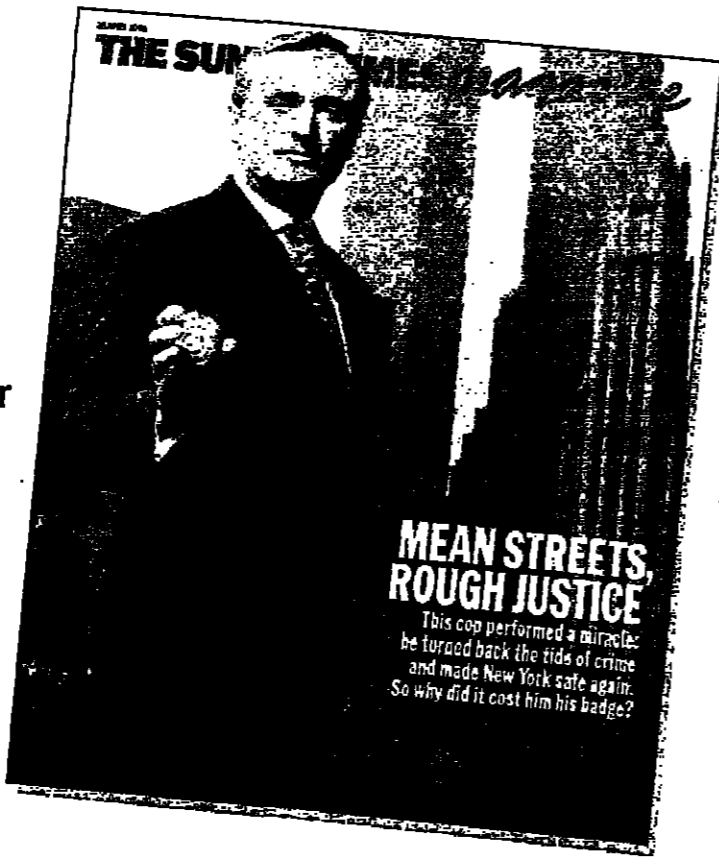
Mrs Clapp believes the most important balance to strike is to recognise the difference between your own needs and the child's. For example, she took her son to swimming lessons when he was three. "He hated them," she says. "He realised I was doing it to benefit myself because I was so proud that my son could swim. You have to weigh up what is best for your child."

EMMA WILKINS

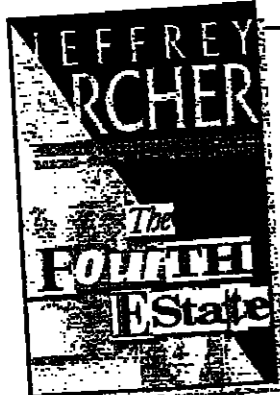
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## JEFFREY ARCHER

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

# Good rays in small doses

After the war, George Watkins's service life ended with a couple of years in a sanatorium. Diagnosed as having TB, a diagnosis since questioned, he was lucky to survive.

Recently George, now in his 80s, developed a persistent cough. It is almost certainly nothing more than bronchitis attacking a badly damaged lung but, as TB can become reactivated in the older age groups in whom the immune system is failing, it seemed in order to arrange for a chest X-ray. Even if George hadn't had TB when he went into the sanatorium he had been given every opportunity of catching it once there.

George, however, had his own opinion about X-rays and thought, not unreasonably, that he had had enough for one lifetime. We agreed on compromise and procrastination.

Many people this week have been disturbed by the Panorama programme on the hazards of X-ray. Dr Michael Brindle, president of the Royal College of Radiologists who practises in King's Lynn, says that this week several of his patients have refused X-ray investigations, and in the case of some of them a lack of an X-ray could lead to serious ill-health.

There is a risk in X-ray investigations and therefore as a matter of principle unnecessary ones are not carried out.

Having a chest X-ray is less risky than smoking a single cigarette

Each request for an investigation is thought about carefully before it is ordered.

Patients should however be reassured, for the risk is very small. Someone living in Britain for instance is eight times more likely to die from exposure to the natural radiation in the environment, whether it is derived from the earth or cosmic radiation, than they are from visits to a hospital X-ray department.

The danger to George's life of having a chest X-ray is the equivalent of smoking one cigarette, not one a day, but one in a lifetime. Another reassuring calculation shows that the modern X-ray machine exposes the body during a chest X-ray to only half the additional radiation

to which it would be exposed by a jet flight to Spain. In theory 50,000 chest X-rays would be needed to increase the chances of a patient eventually dying from a cancer from 25 per cent to 27 per cent. Because chest X-rays are so commonly ordered they have tended to be regarded as a benchmark of radiation hazard when in fact they produce so little radiation that they can be too reassuring.

An X-ray of a complete spine, or a CAT scan, will expose a patient to many times

the amount of radiation used to obtain a chest film.

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السؤال الثاني

## Fancy going out for a Bangladeshi?

Curry wars have broken out on the high street and the fate of chicken tikka may be at stake, Robina Dam reports

Most foreign imports bear little, if any, relation to the original source and the most popular Indian dish in this country is no exception. The next time you visit an Indian restaurant, whether it is the local Taj Mahal on the high street or the more upmarket Star of India in South Kensington, chances are that you will order a chicken tikka masala, consistently the number one choice for the past couple of years.

"Indian" restaurants. Most of them are run by Bangladeshis and this identity crisis has led to one of the most important periods in British curry history. Soon the face of the high-street curry house might change forever and the phrase "Fancy going out for an Indian?" could become an anachronism. The curry wars have started and your vindaloo is at stake. Should it be made the way grandmother does in Bombay, or is it permissible to dose curries with different strengths of chilli powder to retain the punters' perception of an Indian meal?

when the industry was really getting under way, Bangladesh was such a new country that most people in Britain hadn't even heard of it."

Bangladesh was part of Pakistan and it was only in 1971 that it became independent. Now the second generation of Bangladeshi restaurateurs want national recognition and have set up the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. Marketing is a priority. At the guild's launch Angela Browning, the Food Minister, congratulated the achievements of restaurateurs from Bangladesh over the past 50 years. That the nation had only been



The face of Indian restaurants could change

around for 25 years had obviously passed her by. "It's about time you knew who was cooking your curry," declares Abdul Miah, owner of the Bina in Reading and one of the guild's three founders.

Not to be outdone, the restaurants run by Indians have also set up a club. Enter the Elite Indian Restaurant Association, brainchild of Kal Dhaliwal, who owns the Shrima Pinks chain in the Midlands, and the Killermont Polo Club in Scotland. Mr Dhaliwal wants to change the unfortunate image that Indian restaurants have of red flock wallpaper and background sitar music. "As its name suggests, Elite will consist only of the crème de la crème of Indian restaurants. They will only be invited to join if they make the grade," he states.

Panjab, fans the chilli flames by comparing her chic Chelsea restaurant, Chutney Mary, with Le Caprice and Daphne's, in contrast to the Bangladeshi-owned restaurateurs: "the fast-food equivalent of the Indian restaurant industry at the cheaper end of the market".

She points out that the top 5 per cent of the sector are genuine Indian restaurants such as the Bombay Brasserie, Tamarind and Café Spice Namaste. "If the Bangladeshi restaurateurs want to declare their national identity, then that's good for the image of the higher quality Indian ones. The food served by the Bangladeshis would not be recognisable in sub-continental homes," she says.

that the rest of us don't. We all use the same spices, don't we? This is just snobbish."

However, Anul Kochlar, executive chef at the slick Mayfair restaurant Tamarind, is one of the Indian purists appalled at how traditional dishes have been corrupted. "It's a mission for chefs coming to this country from the sub-continent to change the way Indian food is perceived here."

Mr Miah dismisses the high-brow approach. "At the end of the day, we provide customers with what they want. Chicken tikka masala, korma and pasanda are our most popular dishes. Who cares whether they are authentic? If the evidence is anything to go by, not many."

The tale is about to come full circle. While the curry neighbours fight it out, the Anglo-Indian/Bangladeshi curries go from strength to strength. In an ironic twist, the chicken tikka masala has been introduced to India. Coals to Newcastle it may be, but it looks like Britain's success story is about to be repeated - this time on home turf.

## Jackie O - going, going, gone



TONY PALMIERI

Now I know what it is like to be chased up by the mighty Diana "Dede" Brooks, the chief executive of Sotheby's. The corners of her mouth played into a smile and her right eyebrow quivered. She flashed those eyes, pouted, flared her nostrils. "Well?" she said. "How about it? Do you say yes? Hmmm?"

Her proposal was not for some torrid tryst but rather, on the opening night of the selling of America's "crown jewels", that I should add another \$1,000 to my already stretched bid for a set of cracked, rather common-looking porcelain plates. On these plates the late Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis may, or may not, have served cookies on summer afternoons in Hyannisport. Mrs Brooks was hard to resist. Clad in cobalt, she stood on Tuesday night, hammer raised, on the Sotheby's stand in New York. I dithered, then declined.

The plates went for \$9,000, one of the cheapest lots on a night which saw a cascade of money. Outside, thunder announced Manhattan's first storm of spring. Inside it was peeling dollars.

Joan Rivers arrived in the hope of buying a couple of 3rd-century BC terracotta horses. "I knew Jackie O," she said with a wriggle of the shoulders. Joanie was one of several to leave the auction house disappointed. The terracotta horses, which had been given a catalogue estimate of \$12,000, went for \$72,500.

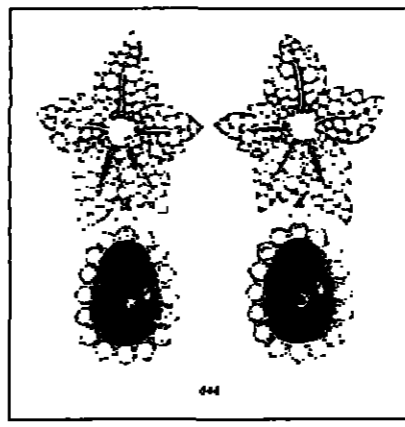
Marie and David Cooper flew in from London to bid for the rocking horse on which little Caroline Kennedy played in the White House nursery in the early Sixties. "We have seven children ourselves," said the elegant Mrs Cooper, who described her husband as "Europe's most expensive lawyer". But even they were to be frustrated. Bids for the rocking horse, which started at the catalogue low estimate of \$2,000, rose within a couple of minutes to \$75,000. "Blimey," said a bug-eyed Mrs Cooper. "You could buy a Derby runner for that!"

## Quentin Letts tries to join in the bidding at the Kennedy sale of the century in New York, but fortunately finds himself hopelessly outclassed

serious", said a suave auction official, giving my scuffed black shoes a dubious look.

The first lot, two dull seashell engravings, went for ten times their \$700 estimate price. The bidding took less than 20 seconds. Up came a Louis XV ormolu and patinated bronze mantel clock, estimated by Sotheby's experts to fetch something in the region of \$5,000. Whoosh went the bidding. Mrs Brooks shouting the numbers like a cattle auctioneer at Herford market. "You say 39?" she cried to a check-shirted fellow at the back of the hall. "Nine!" he shouted back, with a Texan accent. But in came a higher bid. "Forty!" The Texan, beaten, slumped back in his chair.

Rosal Felder, New York's flashiest divorce attorney, who has in the past tried to offer advice to the Princess of Wales, shimmered by to say "Hi". What was he interested



Aristotle's wedding gift (est. \$25-35,000)

bly about 200 of us bidding seriously. A Japanese against the wall tapped furiously into a pocket calculator and shook his head. Former Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca realised it was no night for financial logic and dropped his arm.

Time and again I entered the bidding. One time, with a rush of fear, I thought I had won a 1910 German earthenware pot with a bid far beyond my private limit. It was with some relief that Mrs Brooks, after starting to say "to the gentleman at the side...", noticed a higher bid from the floor. The pot, estimated at \$800, fetched \$37,000.

Pat Baher wanted Jackie O's ebonised baby grand piano, the one which used to stand in her Fifth Avenue duplex. Mrs Baher, on the left-hand-side of the hall, bid like a terrier. The price started at \$3,000, and an impressive struggle developed

between Mrs Baher and a man on the right. Mrs Brooks called their bids like a tennis umpire, switching her head from side to side of the hall as she looked to each bidder to see if more money was forthcoming. The price hit \$150,000. Mrs Brooks dropped the hammer and Mrs Baher had her baby grand, squealing with delight and clenching her fists in pleasure. "It is a gift for my husband," she told me. "He doesn't play the piano. But he will."

Bids were relayed by telephone from Los Angeles and Chicago, with LA winning some of John Kennedy's books and Jackie's cigarette lighter.

This really was the sale of the century, at least as far as New York was concerned. Manhattan loved Jackie Bouvier, and her death two years ago left a void at the top of the city's social pyramid. The extraordinary, even ridiculous amounts spent on the opening night of this auction were a very American demonstration of affection for a woman of mysterious substance.

After two hours of auctioneering, a hoarse, exhausted Dede Brooks accepted a glass of wine and I folded my unsuccessful bidding tool. "Never mind," said kind Mrs Cooper. "At least you got your paddle up."

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COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 24: The President of Mongolia and Mrs Tszedmaa visited The Queen...

stair and patients of the Churchill Hospital, attended a Reception given by the People of Churchill...

Walking tour visits ten survivors of the Great Fire Rare chance to see the City's churches

O City city, I can sometimes Beside a public bar in Lower Thames Street, The pleasant wing of a mandarin...



The walks start at St Mary Aldermary Church, near Mansion House station

shadowed by, their towering glass and concrete spire... The tour also includes what is considered to be the finest historic synagogue in London...

Forthcoming marriages

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Mr N.A. Lightfoot and Miss J.C. Prosser... Mr J.A. Davis and Miss L.A. Lockie...

School news

Clifton High School... The Summer Term began yesterday, Matthew Grimshaw is the Captain of Cricket...

Service dinner

HMS President Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual reunion dinner of the HMAS...

Professor the Hon Sir John Golding, OJ

A Memorial Service for Sir John Golding will be held at St Bartholomew's Church on Tuesday, April 30, at 2.30pm.

Mr D.T. Power and Miss C.J. Awe... Mr J.M. Regis and Miss J.S. Hemming... Mr G.A. Woodroffe and Miss S. Armitage...

Marriage

Commander E.H.C. Nathan and Miss G.J. Cameron... The marriage took place yesterday, in London, between Commander Barry Nathan and Miss Jill Cameron.

Luncheons

Carlton Club... Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade and Industry, was the guest of honor and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club.

Dinner

Earl of Lauderdale entertained the Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies at dinner last night at the home of Lord George Bingham, Minister for Industry and Local Government, Scotland, was the guest of honour.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward II, raised 1307-21, Caernarvon, 1284; Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector 1653-58, Huntingdon, 1599; Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, engineer, Rugby, 1793; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; George Bernard Shaw, playwright, Dublin, 1876.

Memorial services

Viscount Watkinson, CH The Queen was represented by Lord Lucas of Crudwell at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Viscount Watkinson, CH, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey...

Mr A.C.W. Norman A memorial service for Mr Antony Charles Wynyard Norman, OBE, was held on Wednesday, January 10, at St Clements Church...

Mr David Tandy A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr David Tandy, Partner at Titmus Sauer Dechert, was held yesterday at the Temple Church...

Lord Airedale A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Airedale will take place in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster at 12.15pm on Tuesday, May 14, 1996...

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitwear and Clothing Export Council, will attend the Board of Management meeting and visit the offices and showrooms at 5 Portland Place, W1, at 10.30...

Birthdays today

Professor R.F. Boucher, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, UMIST, 50; Mr Eric Bristol, former chairman, Distillers Company, 77; Mr Anthony Christopher, trade unionist, 71; Mr David de Peyer, former director-general, Cancer Research Campaign, 62; Mr Ellis Douak, ologist, 62; Sir Geoffrey Elliott, former chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 76; Dr T.E. Faber, chairman, Geoffrey Fisher Holdings, 76; The Hon. Sir Philip Glazer, 76; Dr John Fox, medical statistician, 78; Lord Gladwyn, 90; Lord Hayter, 85; Sir Paul Judge, former director general, Conservative Party, 47; Mrs Janet King, former MP, 48; Mr David Maclean, Under Treasurer, 48; Judge Helen Paling, 63; Mr David Shepherd, artist, 63; Lord Skidelsky, 57; Sir Francis Graham-Smith, former Astronomer Royal, 75; Mrs Linda Stone, former president, Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 45; Mr Peter Sutherland, managing director, Goldman Sachs International, 45; Mrs V.E. Surber, diplomat, 57.

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NEWS

Poll gives Tories glimmer of hope

People have at last started to feel more optimistic about the economic outlook and are more positive about John Major than at any time for three years, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times.

However, the shift in attitude has not yet changed voting intentions or the expectation that the Conservatives will suffer big losses in next week's council elections. Support for the Tories has remained at 28 per cent over the past month.

Major catches tide of EU protest

John Major told politicians pressing for withdrawal from the European Union that they were living in Cloud-cuckoo-land. But he responded to the rising tide of public and media disaffection with Brussels by signalling a hardening of British attitudes within the EU.

Threat to Adams

President Clinton is expected to sever relations with Gerry Adams if the IRA refuses to resume its ceasefire and disqualifies Sinn Fein from all-party talks on Ulster's future.

Otter returns

An otter has been exploring the Thames near Reading, 40 miles upstream from London, for the first time in thirty years, confirming a dramatic improvement in water quality.

What the MP saw

A backbench Labour MP told the High Court that he spotted a journalist who is now one of Tony Blair's closest aides soliciting signatures on a hand-drafted parliamentary motion.

Currency slippage

European Union countries last year slipped further away from the Maastricht single-currency targets, according to the German Bundesbank president in his annual report.

Nursery project

America's largest child care company is targeting 20 British towns to open dawn-to-dusk nurseries for children from six weeks old following heavy demand at a pilot centre in Cheshire.

Chechen power gap

A power struggle is expected among Chechen guerrilla chiefs as the rebel movement tries to fill the power vacuum left by the death of its leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Back on screen

The earliest surviving film made by Oliver Hardy is to have its first public screening for almost 80 years, after being rescued from a bonfire.

Kennedy fever

Sotheby's was amazed by the bidding at the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis sale in New York. President Kennedy's rocking chair made \$400,000.

War hero honoured

The bravery of a wartime railman who prevented a trainload of bombs exploding has been recognised with the naming of a new garden in Ipswich.

Dole on the attack

The Dole campaign is to intensify its attacks on President Clinton in an urgent effort to stem a rising Republican panic and erode the President's poll lead.

Divorce warning

Tory backbenchers led the attack on the Government's divorce reforms, warning that they would cause a big increase in marital breakdowns.

Sect leader on trial

The leader of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult refused to plead to charges about a nerve gas attack on the Tokyo underground when his trial opened.

The menace from outer space

Eros, an asteroid 15 miles long and twice the size of the one that killed the dinosaurs, may hit the Earth. The asteroid that landed 65 million years ago threw so much debris into the atmosphere that the climate was changed and vegetation died.



The Queen with the President of Mongolia, Punsalmaa Ochirbat, and his wife after his audience at Windsor Castle yesterday

Electric shock: The row over restructuring the industry looks set to continue despite the blocking of the generators' bids.

Football: The Republic of Ireland lost 2-0 to the Czech Republic in Prague. The goals came in the second half from Martin Frydek and Pavel Kuka.

Rip-roaring Richard: New films include a rip-roaring screen adaptation of Richard III, set in the Thirties with Ian McKellen playing the title role.

Going, gone: New York's sale of the century - the auction of Jackie Kennedy Onassis's jewellery and objets d'art.

Telecoms threat: The proposed £35 billion merger between Cable and Wireless and BT hit a new obstacle after a warning from C&W's powerful German partner.

Snooker: Terry Griffiths, a veteran of 18 world championships, has never been involved in a more dramatic finish than his 10-9 victory over Jamie Burnett in this year's first round.

Prince on the run: Peter Whelan's fine new play at the Birmingham Rep, Divine Right, portrays an heir to the throne wandering incognito round middle England.

Daycare: A mother explains why her child goes to nursery school and a teacher looks at what's best for children.

Telegraph move: Conrad Black has moved to assume full control of Telegraph newspapers with a £763 million offer for the 36 per cent of the company which is publicly owned.

Athletics: Colin Jackson withdrew his threat to boycott some of Britain's top meetings this summer.

Tosca refreshed: A dull Covent Garden production of Tosca has been refreshed up by a fine new cast, including the fast-rising British baritone Anthony Michaels-Moore singing Scarpia.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the real results of X-rays.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 15.4 to 3,817.6. Sterling's traded index was unchanged at 84.0 after a dip from \$1.5146 to \$1.5128 and a rise from DM2.2990 to DM2.3022.

Rugby league: Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, accused his Bradford counterpart of "living in Disneyland" over Bradford's starting line-up for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final.

New on video: The space thriller Apollo 13 is among the new videos.

French leave: Tour operators to France are continuing to cut prices in the hope of luring British holidaymakers.

Coming down: Frequent-flyer bonus schemes might be phased out.

Writers behind the writing: Peter Ackroyd on Bernard Shaw; Valerie Grove on Djuna Barnes; Derwent May on the diaries of Anthony Powell.

The Olive Tree of Romano Prodi and the financial markets are in honeymoon phase. If this opportunity is not to be wasted, Italy needs a clear sign that it is on course for monetary union and participation in the euro by 2002.

Labour policies; friends of Kenwood: Thought for the Day; human rights.



IN THE TIMES

POP David Sinclair on a new album from the Cranberries; Caitlin Moran on the Bluetones

INTERVIEW Valerie Grove meets Martin Mears, the Law Society's maverick president

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,151

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 and letters in some cells.

ACROSS and DOWN clues for the crossword puzzle, including '1 This stops drunkard eating pork (6)' and '21 William Tell had to acknowledge applause (4,1,3)'.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table of regional forecasts for various UK locations like London, Manchester, and Glasgow.

FORECAST

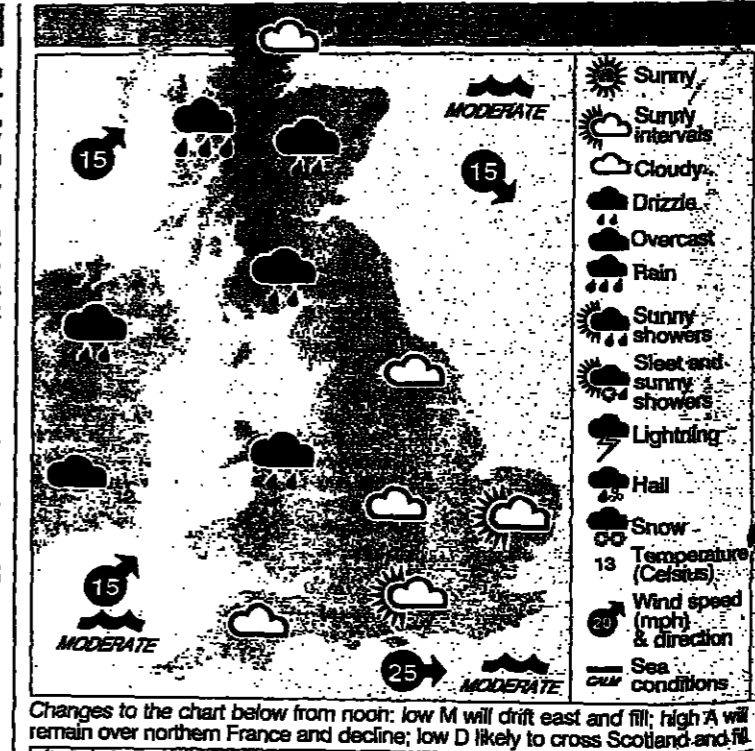
General: England and Wales will start misty fine and dry. Southern areas should remain fine and warm, if increasingly cloudy.

AA ROADWATCH

Table of road conditions and traffic reports for various routes.

AROUND BRITAIN

Table of weather conditions around Britain, including temperature, wind, and rain.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low M will drift east and fill; high A will remain over northern France and decline; low D likely to cross Scotland and fill.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international locations.

Table of flight times and arrival/departure information for various airlines.

Advertisement for WPA (Western Provident Association) dental services, including a quote: 'HAVE YOU PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS?'.

Advertisement for Bermuda Tourism, featuring the text: 'The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly. For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TW5'.

Advertisement for Littlewoods, featuring a large image of a woman's face and the text: 'Littlewoods'.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, featuring the text 'Further', 'Lang fails', 'power', and 'The sin is start look in'.





ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

The single currency is starting to look inevitable



BOOKS 36, 37

Peter Ackroyd on the ascent of Bernard Shaw



SPORT 43-48

John Bryant on the rebel who sought applause

PRICE CUTS TO FRANCE Travel 38, 39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 25 1996

Further industry moves expected despite blocking of bids

## Lang decision fails to end power turmoil

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE dispute over the restructuring of the electricity industry looks set to continue in spite of the decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to block the bids for regional electricity companies by National Power and PowerGen, the UK power generators.

His ruling that the two proposals to combine generation and distribution in electricity should not proceed, was swiftly followed by indications from Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, that he could look favourably on plans by the Hanson conglomerate to buy power stations from National Power and PowerGen.

Those deals, worth more than £2 billion for six megawatts of plant, would create a big, vertically integrated company because Eastern, the division of Hanson, is already the country's largest supplier of electricity with more than three million customers. But Professor Littlechild, who had vehemently opposed the mergers of National Power with Southern Electric and PowerGen with Midlands Electricity, said that Eastern was a different matter. "This would not be on the same scale as National Power or PowerGen, which have a large share of the market," he said. "Another medium-sized player would contribute to competition."

Both the large generators were forced to sell plant by Professor Littlechild to encourage new generators into the market, where currently Nat-

ional Power and PowerGen command huge sway over the wholesale price of electricity.

The principle of vertical integration was not rejected by Mr Lang, in what has been widely interpreted as a political decision to fend off criticism of the Government's handling of electricity privatisation. That, along with Professor Littlechild's keenness to see plant disposed of quickly, could herald more cross-generation/distribution moves. British Energy, the nuclear power group being floated in the summer, is known to be keen to expand into distribution and would probably want to move ahead

Lang blocks bid Pennington 27

of a possible change in Government.

Mr Lang's rejection of the bids adds further uncertainty to the next moves of Southern Company of the US, which made an approach on National Power last week. The prospect of an overseas owner for Britain's largest generator brought a flurry of concern from consumer groups and raised the political temperature when John Redwood and Norman Lamont weighed into the debate.

Southern (US), whose overseas chief executive, Tom Boren, has been in London for the past few weeks, has yet to make a fresh statement after National Power rebuffed a

request for talks about talks. But industry watchers do not believe the company, which is a key player in the US, was naive enough to approach the UK generator without being aware of regulatory hurdles and the prospect of a hostile reaction.

The company was the first US utility to move on the UK market when it bought Sweb, the south-western regional company, in a hostile bid. Ownership of Sweb could be seen to harm its regulatory changes in bidding for a generator, but Southern has indicated it wants to sell up to half its interest in Sweb.

Investors in privatised power stocks saw around £1 billion wiped off the value of their companies as the Government blocked the bid plans. The share price of National Power dropped 32p to 564p and that of PowerGen 36p to 570p. The biggest victims of the fallout, however, were shares in Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity, with Southern tumbling 79p to 824p and Midlands 40p to 371p.

Special dividends worth more than £1 billion could be on the cards for investors in the generators, as the electricity companies come under pressure to return some value to shareholders, who saw their holdings crumble on Mr Lang's decision.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst at Yamaichi, said: "Both generators are now faced with a pressing need to restructure their balance sheets and deliver some value."



Power players: Tom Boren, left, of Southern (US), and Professor Stephen Littlechild



Ian Lang, whose ruling was seen as a political decision to fend off privatisation criticism

## Barings boss faces SFA ban

By ROBERT MILLER

THE disciplinary case brought by a senior City watchdog against Peter Norris, the chief executive officer of Barings at the time of the £860 million crash, is expected to be concluded next week.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, will announce that Mr Norris has accepted a three-year ban from certain senior SFA registers and agreed to pay costs of about £10,000.

Mr Norris, who declined to comment yesterday, is now a non-executive director of John Brown, the publishing house that produces *Viz* and *Gardens Illustrated*.

Mr Norris, who is due to give evidence on the Barings crash to the Commons Treasury Select Committee next month, is the first of the nine remaining disciplinary cases brought by the SFA to be completed.

All have been charged with failing to act with due skill, care and diligence in monitoring the bogus trading activities of Nick Leeson on the Far East money markets. Peter Baring, the former chairman of the 23-year-old merchant bank, and his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, have also been summoned to give evidence at the Commons.

Five others are understood to be in discussions with the SFA over penalties ranging from a three-year ban from senior SFA registers to a severe limitation on the work they may undertake in the securities industry.

The remaining three former Barings executives, Mary Wolz, global head of equity products, Ron Baker, who set up the Debt Financial Products Group, and Ian Hopkins, who was in charge of group treasury and risk, are understood to have refused to accept the SFA verdicts on their professional conduct and are making appeals.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3817.8	(-15.4)
Yield	3.89%	
FT-SE All share	1812.25	(-4.84)
Nikkei	2282.05	(+182.17)
New York	5553.54	(-35.05)
Dow Jones	850.02	(-1.86)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	80 1/4	(80 1/4)
Yield	6.77%	(6.78%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Liba long bill	100%	(100%)
Liba short bill		
STERLING		
New York	1.5140*	(1.5185)
London		
\$	1.5128	(1.5141)
DM	2.2024	(2.2087)
FF	7.7754	(7.7785)
SF	1.8695	(1.8592)
Yen	161.54	(161.21)
£ Index	84.0	(84.0)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.5214*	(1.5220)
FF	5.1309*	(5.1402)
SF	1.2323*	(1.2338)
Yen	106.80*	(106.71)
£ Index	96.6	(96.4)
Tokyo close Yen	106.70	
EUROPEAN STOCKS		
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$18.85	(\$18.25)
GOLD		
London close	\$390.90	(\$382.05)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Veba threat to BT and C&W merger

By ERIC REGULY

THE proposed £35 billion merger between Cable and Wireless and BT hit a new obstacle yesterday when it emerged that Veba, C&W's powerful German partner, has given warning that it will not support the merger if its interests are sacrificed.

Veba, one of Germany's largest industrial groups, owns 10.5 per cent of C&W and has formed two telecoms joint ventures with C&W in Europe. Vebacom, the larger of the two, plans to become the main competitor to Deutsche Telekom after the market is deregulated in 1998.

Veba fears that BT will insist that its own joint venture in Germany, known as Viag Interkom, will emerge as the preferred German partner of a C&W-BT group.

C&W-BT group, Vebacom and Viag Interkom, whose half owner is Viag, the German utility, are competitors and realise that only one of them would have a role in the enlarged group.

BT and C&W admit privately that finding a solution to the

German question is one of the key issues to be resolved before their merger can proceed. A formal merger agreement is expected within weeks.

Neither Veba nor Viag appear willing to bow out gracefully. Hannelore Gantzer, a Viag spokeswoman, said: "We are confident that we will be the ones that survive."

Viag noted that it and BT continued to work on expanding their German partnership even after BT and C&W began talks last year. In February, BT and Viag announced their intention to bring RWE, another German utility, into the Viag Interkom joint venture.

People close to the merger talks said that Viag might might take legal action for breach of its partnership contract, or try to extract a large payment from BT, if Viag Interkom is squeezed out.

Veba appears to have the upper hand because it owns a significant stake of C&W and has a seat on the C&W board.

Hitch at the altar, page 29

## IoD rejects a single currency

BRITAIN'S company directors yesterday gave strong support to Eurosceptics by voting heavily to reject the UK joining a European single currency. The annual conference of the Institute of Directors (IoD) also overwhelmingly backed the UK's opt-out from the European social chapter on employment standards.

Both moves, but especially the single currency vote, what even pro-European business leaders now acknowledge is a growing Euroscepticism in British business. UK business bodies have been divided over Europe, with organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry more overtly pro-European, while bodies such as the IoD have been more sceptical.

A vote at the end of the IoD debate showed 69 per cent against a single currency, and 28 per cent in favour.

Major speaks out, page 1  
What kind of EU? page 11  
Conference, page 26  
City Diary, page 29

## Telegraph agrees £763m takeover

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CONRAD BLACK, chairman of Hollinger, the Canadian publishing group, yesterday moved to assume full control of Telegraph newspapers with a £763 million offer for the 36 per cent of the company which is publicly owned.

Hollinger also hinted at a further easing in the newspaper price war by stating that it intended to lift the cover price of *The Daily Telegraph* when conditions are "appropriate". The paper now costs 40p as opposed to 48p before the price war began in 1993.

In a deal agreed with the Telegraph board, Hollinger is offering 500p a share and a special dividend of 10p a share to Telegraph shareholders. Hollinger added that Telegraph shareholders could be in line for a further payout if the company disposes of its 25 per cent stake in Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group, within the next two years.

Hollinger has approached the new Australian Government, before a review of newspaper ownership laws,

giving warning that it will sell its stake in Fairfax if Mr Black is unable to increase his holding in the company.

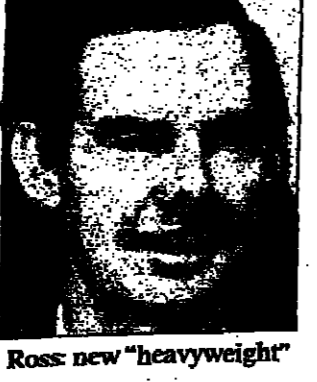
Kerry Packer, who already owns a 17 per cent stake in Fairfax, and Tony O'Reilly's APN newspaper group are understood to be interested in buying the stake if Hollinger decides to sell. But industry experts believe Hollinger's threat is largely bluff as the Fairfax group includes some of the most profitable titles in the world. Shares in the Telegraph rose 96p to 569p, just below the offer price.

Hollinger upset the City two years ago after the group sold 12.5 million shares in the Telegraph just one month before the share price plummeted 35 per cent after the decision to cut cover prices.

Although Hollinger bought back millions of shares after the fall, an earlier attempt to take the company private floundered because the company was unable to agree a price with the Telegraph board.

## Littlewoods chairman to quit at AGM

By JON ASHWORTH



THE Littlewoods pools-to-retailing empire was plunged into fresh controversy yesterday, when it announced that Leonard van Geest, chairman for the past six years, is to quit at next month's annual meeting. His successor is James Ross, who was ousted from Cable and Wireless in November after a damaging boardroom rift.

Mr van Geest appears to be the latest victim of the in-fighting which has gripped members of the controlling Moores family. Barry Dale, the former chief executive, was fired a year ago, and later returned with a troublesome £1.2

billion takeover bid for the company. Littlewoods recently disclosed a 16 per cent fall in pre-tax profits.

Littlewoods insisted yesterday that the parting was amicable, but conceded that Mr van Geest, 46, had agreed to make way for a "heavyweight" chairman with an expanded role. He earned £225,000 in 1994, and is likely to command at least as much in compensation.

The company said: "The changes will lead to a clear separation between ownership and management issues and to adjustments in the structure of the board and the responsibilities of its members. These new developments are designed to introduce clarity and best

practice in the governance of Littlewoods and improve the performance of all the businesses."

Mr van Geest as much as acknowledged his past difficulties when he said: "I am confident that my successor will benefit from having a more clearly defined role and greater responsibilities." A Littlewoods spokesman added: "He recognised that we have widened the scope of the job."

Mr Ross, who was chief executive of Cable and Wireless for four years, said he was looking forward to leading Littlewoods into a new era.

Pennington, page 27

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THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Rejection for single European currency

**BUSINESS** leaders at the Institute of Directors annual conference yesterday overwhelmingly rejected Britain's participation in a single European currency. By voting to reject it the conference in London supported the strongly Eurosceptical line of the institute's leadership.

In place of a traditional business conference format, IoD leaders decided to devote the whole of the institute's conference to Europe, and arranged debates on two key issues of a single currency and a social chapter, with speakers both for and against. Arguing against a single currency,

block modernisation of developing states such as Estonia and Portugal, while structural differences, such as the way pension funds are financed, would cause huge strains.

But Georges Jacobs, chairman of the Federation of Belgian Industry, said that as a pragmatic businessman, he saw five reasons why a single currency would be in the UK's long term interest.

Business accounting would be simplified, and currency conversion costs of £18 billion a year saved, he said. Britain's sovereignty over its economy would rise, because it would have a say in European monetary policy, rather than be dominated by decisions of the Bundesbank, as at present. Prices would be more stable, and interest rates lower, because the economy would be well managed. Trade would be promoted by exchange-rate stability and the single market would work better.

Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, waved a £5 note issued in 1949 — worth 29p today, to illustrate the way Britain's currency had been devalued. Backing the case for monetary union, he said bond markets did not believe Britain had broken its cycle of surging inflation followed by rising interest rates. "We sound like Elizabeth Taylor after her eighth marriage, saying 'this time it will be different', nobody believes us."

A clear majority of speakers from the floor opposed a single currency, with seven against and three in favour. Business speakers said a single currency would hit UK business hard, and transfer control of Britain's economic policy-making to other EU countries.

**EMU DEBATE**

Lord Tebbit, a former Trade and Industry Secretary, said monetary union was simply a stepping-stone for politicians seeking a federal Europe.

He said: "The single currency is not about economics, it is about politics, and since when has subordinating politics to economics done anyone any good?" Quoting William Gladstone, the former Prime Minister, he said: "The finances of this country are intimately associated with the liberty of this country." But joining a currency union undermines the ability of countries to adjust their economic policies to national needs. "The political risk would be incalculable."

Lord Tebbit was backed by Sir John Hoskyns, a former IoD Director-General and founder of Hoskyns Group, who said: "I believe the single currency project will do business enormous damage." Combining currencies would



Chapter and verse: Sir Stanley Kalms said flexible employment laws suited both sides

# UK prospects are bright, says Major

**JOHN MAJOR**, the Prime Minister, proclaimed Britain's economic prospects as "bright" on the basis of new survey evidence from company directors in the UK signalling a potential upturn in growth, with orders, output, profits and jobs all rising.

The findings of the latest business trends survey from the IoD contrast sharply with the results of the latest economic report from the Confederation of British Industry, which this week painted its gloomiest recent picture of the state of the UK economy.

Privately, IoD leaders were surprised at how positive were the results of the survey — the first since being turned from a bi-monthly report to a quarterly study in line with other large-scale business surveys.

While they refused to accept that its findings might have been influenced by the methodological changes, they acknowledged that the alterations make impossible comparisons with previous IoD surveys and emphasised the need to consider its results over time after a number of surveys in the new format have been carried out.

They emphasised that because the survey included the more buoyant service sector, rather than just the CBI's manufacturing base, its results reflected a better industrial spread.

Welcoming the findings, Mr Major told the conference in

London: "The survey confirms what many of us have felt for some time — that the economic prospects are bright. They will get brighter, and, increasingly, we have a lot to be positive about in this country."

Lord Young, IoD president, proclaimed the survey's findings as signalling the return of the long sought for "feel-good" factor in the economy.

The IoD's survey of 500 company directors showed a strong company performance over the past three months. The institute suggested its results were consistent with a forecast of 2.5 per cent growth in the

economy this year. IoD analysts suggested the Chancellor and the Bank of England might have to raise interest rates to restrain economic growth, although they said that there were dangers in the possibility of a substantial stock correction and a prolonged recession in Europe.

A balance of 69 per cent of directors felt their company was performing well. Demand was quite strong, with a balance of 29 per cent reporting above-normal order books.

Employment had seen a "significant increase" over the past three months, but 27 per cent said overall costs had been rising.

**THE ECONOMY**

# Social chapter is given short shrift

**LEADERS** of the IoD massively rejected the European social chapter and insisted on the Government's retaining of its opt-out from Europe-wide employment regulation.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said that legislation could not create more or better jobs — only business could do that. Regulations

destroyed jobs, he told business leaders: "We need to keep government off your backs, so that you can put your backs into creating jobs. Europe hasn't done that."

The Conservative Government has made the UK job market "the most lightly regulated, lowest social cost labour market in Europe. As a result

**EMPLOYMENT**

our unemployment is now below the level every other major European country — and falling.

Signing the social chapter, he said, would be particularly damaging to Britain. Europe would harmonise to the most onerous, rigid and costly employment regime, and the move would give more power to the unions in Britain. Employment laws, too, would not be uniformly observed.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, warned company

directors not to vote against European measures supported by such key Conservatives as Baroness Thatcher, who had approved legislation under which directives were coming forward to set maximum hours of work.

He said that the UK opt-out now looked "shaky", especially on European works councils, adding that lurking behind the IoD's motion on the social chapter was the idea that deregulation was a good thing. "Well, it has not done the British beef industry much good."

Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of the Dixons retail

group, said he was firmly opposed to the social chapter. "There are bad employers, but laws won't get rid of them," he said. "Most employers in this country are good employers. They can't afford not to be." Flexible employment laws and part-time working suited companies and employees alike. The social chapter is wrong in principle and wrong in practice, and it won't work — and those without work will never forgive us if we accept it."

REPORTS BY PHILIP BASSETT AND ROSS TIEMAN

# USAir cuts losses to \$32.3m

USAir, which is 25 per cent owned by British Airways, has recorded a net loss of \$32.3 million in the first quarter of this year.

Stephen Wolf, the new chairman, said that he was disappointed with the result in a quarter when other airlines had reported record profits. It is, however, an improvement on the \$42 million loss reported by the company at the same time last year.

Mr Wolf said that business was lower than normal in January and February because of harsh winter weather. March had seen a return to a normal level. There was a rise in revenues from \$1.8 billion to \$1.9 billion.

# Youard quits

Richard Youard, the investment ombudsman for Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, is to stand down on May 1. He will be replaced by Peter Dean, deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

# Stake rises

Amersham International, the UK-based health science group, is to buy a further 30 per cent stake in Nihon Medi-Physics, the Japanese nuclear medicine company, spending £51.4 million to achieve joint ownership with NMP's parent company, Sumitomo Chemicals.

# Lloyds appeal

Lloyds Bank last night said that it wanted time to consider a High Court judgment concerning its £4 billion staff pension scheme that could cost around £100 million.

# PNE in black

Preston North End, the Alternative Investment Market-listed football club, has reported pre-tax profits of £42,000 (£217,000 loss) in the six months to December 31.

# Argos signed

Burford Holdings, the property group, has signed up Argos, the catalogue retail group, for a 400,000 sq ft centre on the Heywood Distribution Park near Manchester.

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

# Bank of Scotland Annual Results

	1996	1995
TOTAL PROFIT FROM GROUP OPERATIONS BEFORE PROVISIONS	£706.4m	£650.0m
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£545.0m	£449.7m
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES	£3,533m	£2,731m
TOTAL ASSETS	£44,099m	£34,104m
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	25.8p	22.3p
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	6.85p	5.82p

- Total profit from Group operations before provisions a record £706.4 million
- Profit before taxation up 21 per cent on 1995
- Dividend increased by 17.7 per cent
- Cost: income ratio 52.1 per cent



For a copy of the Bank's Annual Report contact the Marketing Services and Public Relations Department, Bank of Scotland, Usher House, PO Box 12, 61 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2JF.

# MP attacks society over income plans

**By ROBERT MILLER**

A CONSERVATIVE MP yesterday attacked a Midlands building society as "an utter disgrace" over its selling of unsuitable home income plans to elderly investors.

William Powell, MP for Corby, who has campaigned for compensation for people who, in the 1980s, were sold stock market-based plans subsequently banned by City authorities, singled out the West Bromwich Building Society for particular criticism.

Mr Powell said many people had been left with debt of £20,000 each, in spite of the Investors Compensation Scheme

# Siemens' income up 15%

**SOARING** sales in Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe helped to boost half-year results from Siemens, the German electronics company (Clare Stewart writes). Lower restructuring costs also contributed to the 15 per cent rise in net income to DM1.08 billion in the period to March this year.

The strength of international markets helped to offset

# Gilts issue in demand

Bank of England officials breathed a sigh of relief after safely seeing away the first gilts issue of the new fiscal year. The £3 billion sale by auction of 7½ per cent Treasury Stock 2006 yesterday was almost three times oversubscribed, predominantly by fund managers although private investors contributed nearly £2 million to the new issue.

Fears had been expressed within the City and at the Treasury that a £3 billion issue was over-ambitious but the market showed a surprising appetite for the government IOUs. Last year's gilts auctions raised £31.1 billion, with the final one raising a similar amount to yesterday's issue. The next is due on May 29.

# TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.02	1.86
Austria Sch	17.23	15.73
Belgium Fr	50.25	46.06
Canada \$	2.159	2.009
Cyprus Cyp£	0.755	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.51	8.71
Finland Mk	7.58	7.29
France Fr	8.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.48	2.25
Greece Dr	364.00	350.00
Hong Kong \$	12.37	11.37
Ireland Pn	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.200	4.500
Italy Lit	2480.00	2311.00
Japan Yen	175.50	169.50
Malta £	0.255	0.240
Netherlands Gld	2.733	2.503
New Zealand \$	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr	10.51	9.71
Portugal Esc	247.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	6.34	6.14
Spain Ptas	168.00	160.00
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.05
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	11671.0	10271.0
USA \$	1.613	1.483

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

This notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of London Stock Exchange Limited (the 'London Stock Exchange'). A Prospectus relating to Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc dated 24 April 1996 has been published. Application has been made for all of the 'C' Shares of Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc to be issued to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission will become effective and that dealings in the 'C' Shares will commence on 22 May 1996.



# Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc

(Incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number 126524)

**Placing and Offer for Subscription**

of up to **75,000,000 'C' Shares of £1 each at 100p per share** (payable in full on application) sponsored by **Dickson Minto W.S.**

Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc is an investment trust the investment objective of which is to invest in small UK quoted companies.

Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc has received irrevocable undertakings to apply for in aggregate 65,000,000 'C' Shares in the Placing, applications in pursuance of which will be accepted in full. The Offer for Subscription for up to 10,000,000 'C' Shares will be available for subscription by existing shareholders and warrant holders and the public. Applications (which should each be for a minimum of 250,000 'C' Shares (making a minimum subscription per application of £250,000) except in the case of market makers) should be received by not later than 10.00 a.m. on 15 May 1996.

Copies of the Prospectus and application forms for use in the Offer for Subscription can be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (excluding Saturdays and public holidays) up to and including 15 May 1996 from:

- Aberforth Partners: 14 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7NS
- Dickson Minto W.S.: Royal London House, 22-25 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DS

In addition, copies of the Prospectus can be obtained, by collection only, for two business days from the date of this notice from the Company Announcements Office, the London Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court, London EC2.

Dickson Minto W.S. is regulated by the Law Society of Scotland  
25 April 1996

Handwritten signature: J. J. J. J. J.

□ Fallout from Lang's electric shocker □ Reform of archaic shareholder regulations □ Still more to do at Spurs

# A smell of burnt insulation

□ ANY political decision that upsets several hundred thousand people is a courageous one. Ian Lang cannot be faulted for lack of courage, therefore, as he hacks his way out of the National Power impasse.

The blocking of two bids yesterday is clearly a political decision, no matter how it is dressed up with references to the public interest, and it seems designed to keep National Power out of America hands. Those thousands of investors in Southern and Midlands are not going to get their money now, and those in other regional electricity companies stand a rather smaller chance of being taken over too.

The putting together of a generator and a distributor, ahead of the coming of the competitive market in 1998 that allows the one to sell to customers of the other, was the ideal next step in the consolidation of the industry, and the MMC, it is clear from the report, was not much against it. The Commission could see no way that an integrated company would be in a position to raise prices.

Mr Lang's decision seems to fly in the face of this. It also means that thousands of National Power shareholders will not be seeing their profits either once Southern of Atlanta plucks up courage and bids, because it will also have to be referred. Nor

will the City institutions, who have been betting heavily on such an offer.

The political advantage is that we will not see a complete dismemberment of the power industry, courtesy of the Americans, just before the election. They have the option of selling all of their holding in the regional company South Western as a condition of bidding again. But what odds that even then some reason for blocking a bid might be found?

When they flogged off the electricity industry it was expected to prove a dull backwater of the stock market, a collection of identical utilities. Instead it has given rise to any number of shocks, and the bidding frenzy is not necessarily over. Yesterday's falls may turn out to be overdone.

The Lang decision throws up a few anomalies. First, pity poor PowerGen, whose bid, on the above analysis, has fallen foul of the Americans' designs on National Power. Second, Scottish Power, a generator, was earlier allowed to buy a regional distributor, Manweb, although the

distinction could perhaps be made that they operate in different markets, Scotland having its own power industry.

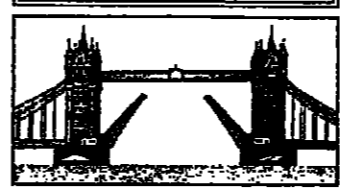
Third, what of Eastern, allowed to build up 12 per cent of the generating market? This has come about at the instigation of the regulator, who forced the generators to sell the plant and apparently approved this vertical integration again yesterday. Those deals should surely now go to the MMC. But will a disgruntled National Power, whose sale clearly assumed a clearance, allow the deal to go ahead now, or hold off and damn the regulator to do his worst?

## Open season on companies

□ THERE is a mood of paranoia about in the boardroom. It is the annual meeting season again, and those who remember the horrors inflicted by shareholders in the past are keen to limit the damage this year.

The whole of company law as it relates to annual meetings and shareholders' rights, like much

### PENNINGTON



in this sheltered isle, is in need of a good shake-up. Current law dates back to the days when most companies were family concerns, and the meeting took place in the front parlour chaired by the family solicitor and all adjourned for a sherry afterwards.

Hence the archaic votes by show of hands, only superseded by a poll of proxy votes if things get too controversial. Hence, too, those curious bands in accounts that spell out directors' salaries anonymously, a relic from more gentlemanly days. Hence the placing of articles of association, details of directors' service contracts and other juicy morsels safely behind glass at head office.

These rules were not designed

for companies with shareholder bases running into several millions. Furthermore, this is the time of the active shareholder, and some boards are doing their best to limit their incursions.

British Aerospace has had to backtrack on scrapping the annual vote on its report and accounts, which along with the non-appointment of directors by rotation is the final nuclear trigger for disaffected investors. This was part of a raft of damage limitation measures aimed at protesters complaining about Hawk sales to Indonesia, but the company still wants to ditch votes on a show of hands.

The case for reform is compelling. Research due soon from Pensions and Investments Research Consultancy shows cases where genuine dissent, as registered by proxy votes, was stifled by a near-unanimous show of hands at the meeting. It also throws up the extraordinary fact that a fifth of all proxy votes are discretionary — in other words, handing over all power to the chairman rather than taking any firm line. How do you square active investment with

handing the company a large chunk of voting power to be used to shut out the views of those who actually bother to attend?

## Sugar plays a blinder

□ ENGLAND manager Terry Venables may have been winning plaudits for his football tactics yesterday but it was his erstwhile business partner Alan Sugar who was showing that when it comes to football club finance he is the master tactician.

Sugar has scored a double victory. He has pleased the fans by raising funds to rebuild the North London club's stadium without touching the club's precious transfer money pool. But he has also satisfied the City by improving the shares' poor liquidity and hinting that Tottenham is serious about dividends.

By reducing his stake to 40 per cent without selling, Mr Sugar has cleverly sidestepped any accusations of treachery that may have echoed from the terraces. He seems to have learnt a little about the psychology of

fans from the sudden and unhappy departure last summer of star player Jürgen Klinsmann. In future crises he can emphasise his long-term loyalty while pointing to the fact that he no longer has majority control.

But football is, who could resist the phrase, a game of two halves and Tottenham has a long way to go before it can be compared with Manchester United as an investment opportunity. Mr Sugar admitted as much yesterday when he said that the club still had a lot of work to do before it had fully utilised all its assets. A few trophies in the boardroom would also help, but until then the club, like the rest, remains dangerously sensitive to the weekly results on the field.

## Payoff punchline

□ THE intra-tribal warfare at Littlewoods, between those who want the money and those who want the world to stop turning, has left three corpses. None of them family members, naturally; they include a former chief executive and, the latest, a departing chairman. We are not told whether he was on a revolving contract that would serve to boost his compensation payoff. But if James Ross, his successor, has any sense he will make very certain that he is.

# Australian boost at Bank of Scotland

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

BANK of Scotland yesterday proved that its decision to build up an Australian business instead of following the recent trend of banks to buy building societies had paid off when it announced a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £545 million.

Sir Bruce Patullo, governor, said that although he would never rule out the possibility of buying a building society, the bank had decided that the acquisition of a 51 per cent stake in Bank of Western Australia was a better use of its capital.

He said that the prices being paid for societies were too high. "The building society movement has had its day."

The bank intends to split the role of chairman and chief executive, combined by Sir Bruce since 1991. Peter Burt, treasurer and chief general manager, will become chief executive in June. Sir Bruce will remain chairman.

Excluding non-recurring items, profits were £484.4 million, with growth at 16 per cent. Bad debt provisions fell from £221.5 million to £177.1

million. The main clearing bank operations contributed £333.7 million before tax, up 13 per cent. NWS Bank, the consumer credit business, increased profits 6 per cent to £121.7 million in spite of a 17 per cent increase in costs.

Profits at British Linen Bank, its merchant banking arm, more than doubled to £36 million. Kellock, the factoring operation, held profits at £4.2 million. The contribution from Countrywide Banking Corporation, its New Zealand bank, was £5.1 million higher at £26.7 million. The first-time contribution from Bank of Western Australia, for the three months to February 29, was £19.7 million.

About 14,000 staff will benefit from a £31.5 million profit-sharing pot. They will receive 15 per cent of their salaries, which assuming an average salary of £15,000 is an average of £2,250.

The dividend for the year has been increased to 6.85p, up 17.7 per cent, with the final payment of 4.4p payable on June 21.

Tempus, page 28

## Forte close to bidding for hotels

By Clare Stewart

PLANS for Sir Rocco Forte's return to the hotel industry are nearing completion with details of a major City funding package due within weeks.

Sir Rocco, who lost control of the Forte group in January after a bitterly fought £3.8 billion battle with Granada, is said to be near to securing up to £1 billion of City backing to help to finance a bid for former Forte hotels that Granada is looking to sell.

"Matters are at a sensitive stage," said a spokesman for Sir Rocco. It is thought that he and his team are talking to a number of City investment banks and venture capital groups, and that details of the funding will be finalised soon.

Sir Rocco announced his intention to return to hotels after Granada's victory, with his sights set on the Meridian and Exclusive hotels.

## JJB Sports shoots ahead to defy City

By Clare Stewart

JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer, notched up another top performance as pre-tax profits leapt 70 per cent to £12.9 million in the year to January 31, beating City expectations.

However, the prolonged winter is blamed for early season problems. David Whelan, JJB's chairman and a former Blackburn Rovers footballer, said: "Five weeks ago trading was 3 per cent down on a like-for-like basis."

Rapid expansion helped to lift turnover 48 per cent to £89.6 million, with like-for-like sales ahead 15 per cent. The Wigan-based group opened 25 stores, taking the chain to 148 outlets at the year end. A further 40 sites are planned this year.

JJB also announced a two-for-one bonus share issue. A final dividend of 6p gives a total of 8.75p.

## Tottenham £11m cash call for rebuilding

By Alasdair Murray

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the football club, yesterday launched an £11 million rights issue to help to fund the rebuilding of its White Hart Lane stadium in north London (see Pennington, this page).

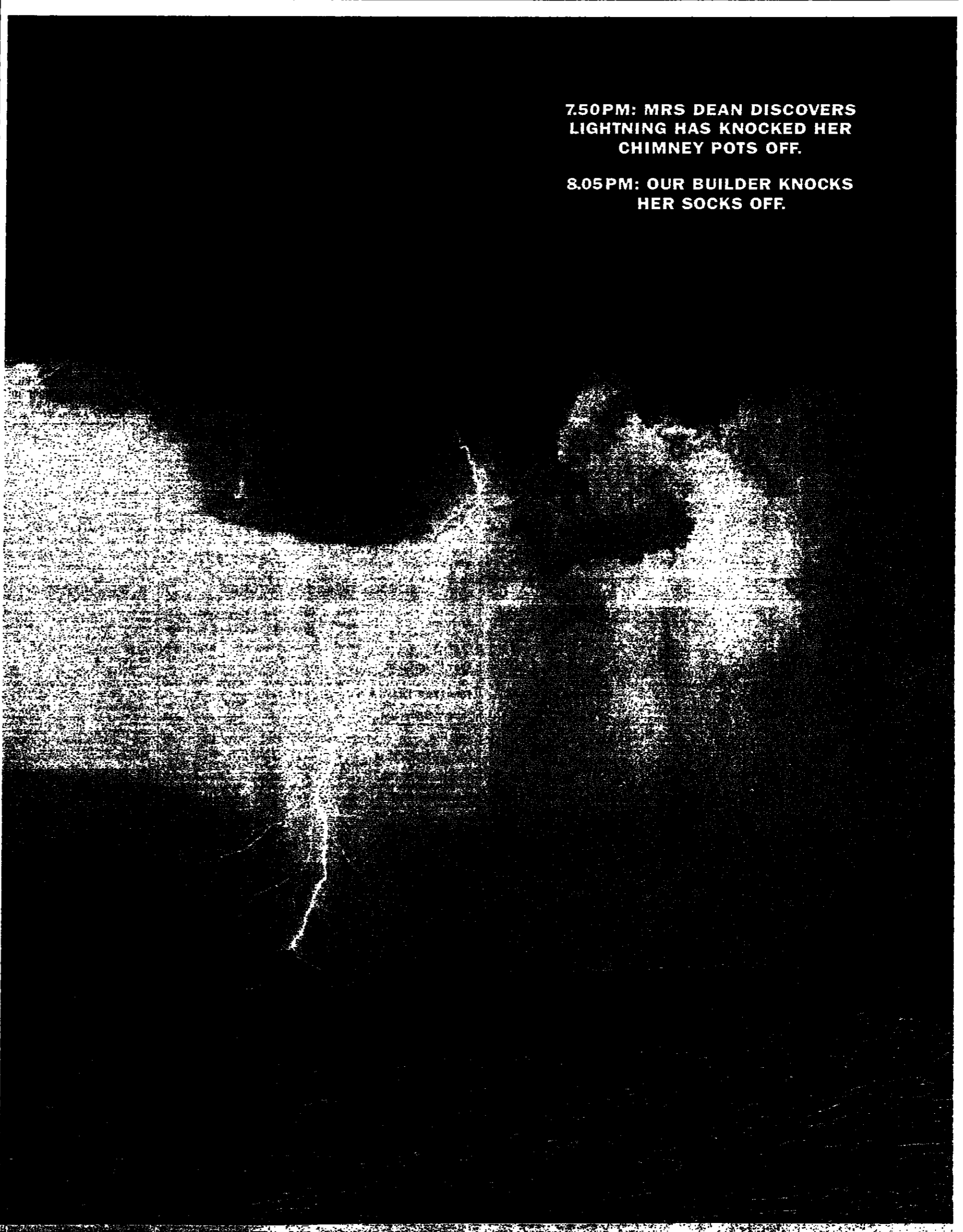
The move will also improve liquidity at the club, with Alan Sugar, chairman, waiving his right to take up the new shares, reducing his holding from 51 per cent to about 41 per cent.

The club said Mr Sugar's allocation would instead be placed with new institutional investors. A total of four million new shares will be offered

at 280p a share on a one-for-four basis. Dealings in the new shares will start today.

Mr Sugar insisted that he would not reduce his stake further. He said: "I could have sold shares and seen the money go into my own pocket, but we went for the rights issue so the money went into the club."

Tottenham said that trading had been good during the second half of the year and forecast a final dividend of 3p giving a total dividend of 4.5p, an increase of 50 per cent on last year.



7.50PM: MRS DEAN DISCOVERS LIGHTNING HAS KNOCKED HER CHIMNEY POTS OFF.

8.05PM: OUR BUILDER KNOCKS HER SOCKS OFF.



Massaging their egos

LIFE is fun at the Institute of Directors. Not only has an in-house wine bar opened at the IoD's Pall Mall headquarters...

Hot water

EVEN the IoD's celebrated lunchbox didn't escape the heated European debate. In place of beef, conventioners were treated to cold lamb chops...



Tebbit: Perrier point

AFTER watching hostile bidder Rentokil make blunder after blunder in the course of its bid, BET managed one of its own yesterday. In a jumbled metaphor...

Power failure

WE think we've cracked why Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and President of the Board of Trade, made the completely unexpected decision to block the power bids yesterday...

WAGE inflation has hit the Treasury. Unable to fill the chief executive's vacancy at the National Savings department...

Dry sugar

IT WAS a gentle amble for Alan Sugar yesterday, from his luxury yacht from his along-side Tower Bridge...

WILL Jack Straw jump to the defence of his baby brother, after Gordon Brown accused accountancy firms yesterday of dealing in "rumours and lies"?

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW ANATOLE KALETSKY



Shift in German mood fuels single currency momentum

Weakening of the mark in relation to flimsy franc buoys case for union

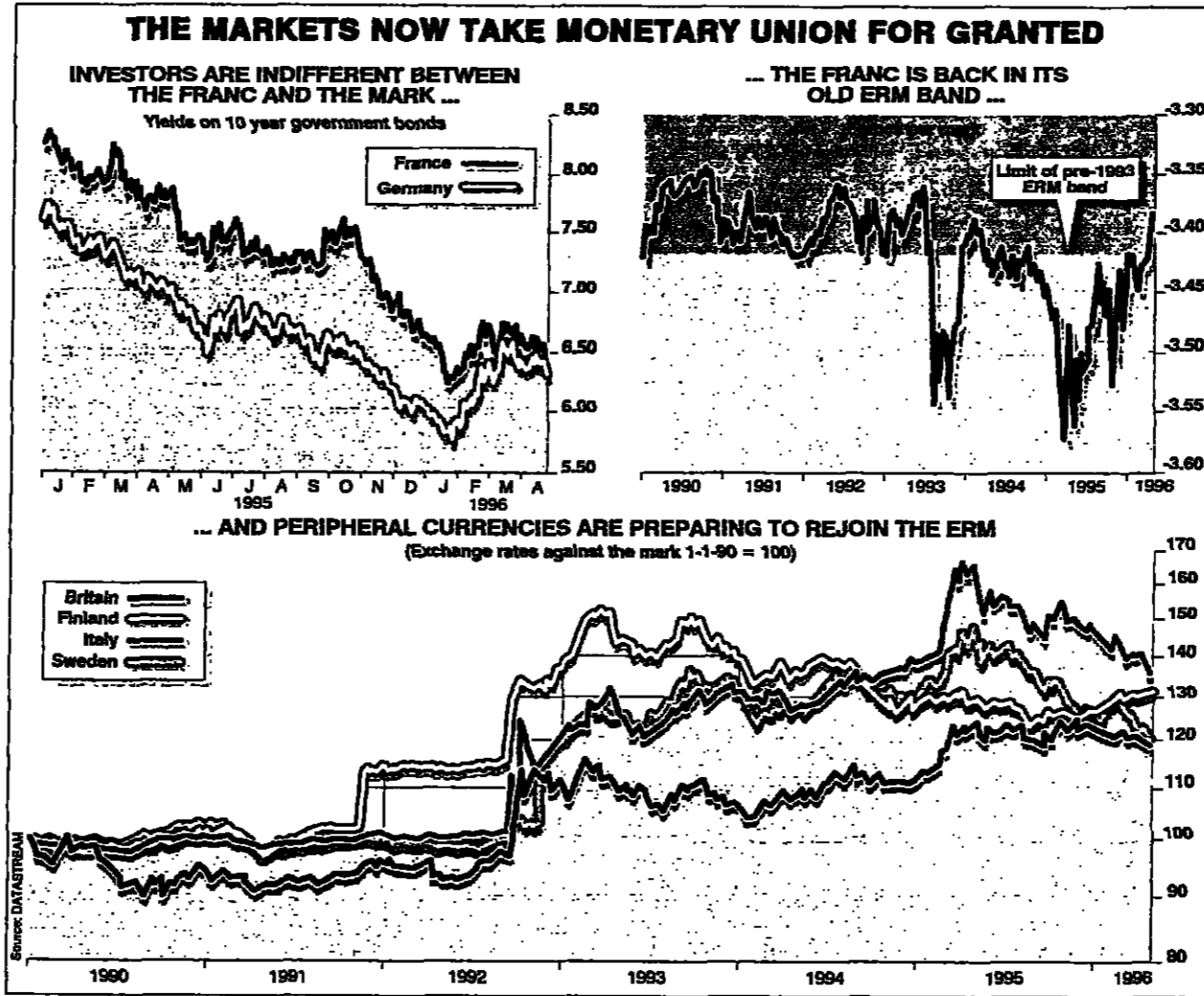
In the month I spent immersed in the parochial concerns of British electoral politics and the Labour Party, momentous events have happened in the economic world, particularly in Europe...

The financial markets are now taking the formation of a monetary union involving Germany, France, Austria and the Benelux countries completely for granted. They are also assuming that the single currency will be created on time in January 1999...

In fact, according to the rates on forward bond-swaps provided by Alison Cottrell of PaineWebber International, the market is expecting French interest rates to be marginally lower than German ones by 1999...

I said back in March that this one vote could do more to settle the future of Europe than any number of economic debates or White Papers. And in the event it did...

I said back in March that this one vote could do more to settle the future of Europe than any number of economic debates or White Papers. And in the event it did...



monetary union did so for the first (and probably last) time in German history. The people showed no interest whatsoever in the subject and voted in droves against the SPD. Helmut Kohl's coalition emerged triumphant and his faith in 'the European construction' was reaffirmed...

decisions are due to be made. But then, neither will Belgium, The Netherlands or France. Indeed it is quite possible that Germany will fall foul of both the key targets: a government deficit below 3 per cent of GDP and gross public debt of less than 60 per cent of GDP...

Financial markets are taking for granted the formation of a [restricted] EMU

Maastricht targets are clearly out of reach? And why are they equally confident that a near bankrupt country like Belgium will become a founder-member, while Italy (and Britain) will not? The main answer lies, as ever, in German politics...

mark is a good mark". The Germans now want the mark to weaken, not only against the dollar and the yen, but also against the lira, the pound and the Swedish crown. That removes one of the main sources of friction between Germany and France...

One reason the Germans are becoming more relaxed about EMU is that their politicians, bankers and businessmen are quietly reassuring them that improvident Mediterranean countries will not be allowed to join...

The Maastricht criteria leave plenty of scope to achieve this result. But the problem is that a single currency without the 'Club Med' would be almost pointless. One of the main functions of EMU from the German and French standpoint is to stop their neighbours improving their competitiveness by devaluing...

Look at conversions to find missing VAT millions

From Mr Michael J. Flint Sir, The Treasury's cost-cutting culture may not necessarily account for the shortfall in value-added tax receipts, as implied by Robert Bruce (Audit, April 18)...

Lagging behind in the UK?

From Mr Ian Roderick Sir, In The Times (April 22) you carried a four-page spread on the Queen's Awards that also contained 22 advertisements from some of the companies that have won awards...

Telecom giants face hitch at the altar

Eric Reguly on the German dilemma facing BT and Cable and Wireless

When Veba, Germany's fourth-largest company, learnt that Cable and Wireless and BT were in merger discussions, it sensed a once-in-a-lifetime chance to influence, and ultimately benefit from, the formation of a £35 billion global telecoms group...

But Veba faced one potentially insurmountable obstacle. BT also had a German partner in the form of Viag, another corporate giant with grand designs on the German telecoms market...

Since C&W and BT had competing telecoms companies in Germany, it became clear that one of them would have to go if C&W and BT merged. Deciding which of the joint ventures is to be sacrificed has emerged as one of the main obstacles to reaching a merger agreement between C&W and BT...

Veba lacks the clout to stop the merger, but could hinder it

service, three cable investments with 1.2 million customers and a clutch of mobile phone interests, including a 28 per cent stake in E Plus, one of Germany's fastest-growing players in the sector...

Although Veba has more influence than Viag over the outcome of the merger talks, Viag shows no signs of abandoning the fight. It argues that its relationship with BT has, if anything, become closer since the merger talks began last year...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 182nd Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 7 May 1996 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

- To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31 December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors. To re-elect Mr R H Davey, Mr W H Main, Dr C Masters and Mr D C Ritchie as Directors. To fix the remuneration of Directors. To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as Auditors. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year. To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy, for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective, Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a Member of the Society.

Questions may be submitted from Members who themselves or through their Proxy intend to be present at the Meeting. These should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned not less than four clear working days before the Meeting.

T B Houston SSC Group Legal Adviser and Secretary 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 3 April 1996



Losses extended

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Main table containing various equity price listings categorized by industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER. Includes a 'BRITISH FUNDS' section with sub-sections for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Handwritten note: 25/4/96

Vertical text on the left margin: 'Helical Bar edges upwards to £9.2m', 'Aberforth plans placing', 'Trust may lift payout', 'Cost-hit Essex Furniture', 'Pic heads for AIM', 'Mat stalls to sell', 'of the mid-size are numbered'.

RAILTRACK Share Offer REGISTER AT A SHARE SHOP. ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND APPROVED BY SEC WARNING. A DIVISION OF SWISS BANK CORPORATION INCORPORATED IN SWITZERLAND. THE VALUE OF SHARES CAN FLUCTUATE ANY APPLICATION FOR SHARES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PROSPECTUS ALONE. FOR ADVICE CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR.



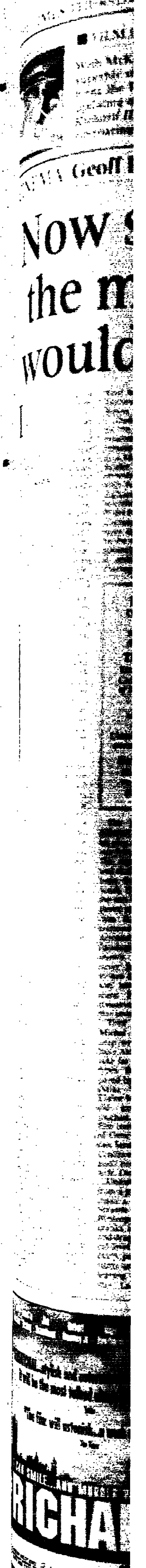
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table of unit trust prices for various categories including AIM Unit Trust Managers Ltd, AIA Equity & Unit Trust Managers, and various equity and bond funds.

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Advertisement for HSBC Unit Trusts. Text: "Of course I don't get cash by phone... I use a cash machine" for 24 hour telephone banking. Includes phone number 0800 24 24 24 and a handwritten note "0800 24 24 24".





سنة ١٤١٧



FILM 1

With McKellen in superbly sinister form, the Thirties updating of *Richard III* makes rip-roaring cinema



FILM 2

Poised acting does not rescue *The Birdcage*, a limp and dated remake of *La Cage aux folles*

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3

Julianne Moore plays the housewife who succumbs to "environmental illness" in the unnerving *Safe*



FILM 4

Jean-Claude Van Damme ripples his torso and saves democracy (again) in *Sudden Death*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Ian McKellen take *Richard III* and turn it into a great night at the pictures

# Now showing: the man who would be king

If Shakespeare were alive today, he would be writing for the movies. How many times have we heard this? Completely unprovable, of course: for all we know, the Bard might fancy designing video games or reading the news on Channel 4. But *Richard III*, the film, goes some way towards making the cliché appear true.

Take the first flurry of shots. On the soundtrack a ticker-tape ticks. A tank crashes through a book-lined study, heralding the King's assassination some time in the 1930s. Earl Rivers flies in from America. During victory celebrations in a palace ballroom, Ian McKellen's Duke of Gloucester takes the band singer's microphone. But instead of singing he soliloquises: "Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer..."

Limping through the crowd, this oedipian charmer with the thin moustache (think Hitler, think Mosley) beckons us and the camera to follow him. We end up in the gen's toilet, the soliloquy still flowing. Shakespeare was never like this before. Even Richard Eyre's 1990 National Theatre production, the film's inspiration, was never like this.

The energy is overwhelming. Much of it stems from the telescoped script: what can last four hours on stage now takes 103 minutes. McKellen sends up his own shower of sparks. Transposing Shakespeare's disfigured schemer to the decade that appeared fascist dictators may be an obvious trick, but McKellen's force keeps the characterisation valid. Speaking to others, this murderous usurper in black military uniform coats words with jam. Speaking to us, straight to camera, out come the smirk, the sowl and the conniving glint. This man, you feel, is truly dangerous.

And yet the film might still have trundled along, half theatre, half cinema, with a director other than Richard Loncraine. Experienced in television and commercials, Loncraine is uninhibited by reverence for the text or the sight of great actors in flight. He pushes the images along like a speed demon: and if some of Shakespeare's words jar in context — "My kingdom for a horse!" Richard cries as his Jeep is hit — then it's just too bad.

final battle, that becomes the burnt-out shell of Battersea Power Station. Shakespeare's words are cut to the quick, but otherwise unaltered, apart from the odd rebuke by Richard's chauffeur to a kid jumping on the car's fender. Loncraine's actors vigorously pitch into the charade: with Jim Broadbent as Buckingham, Maggie Smith as a horrified Duchess of York and Nigel Hawthorne as the gentle Clarence, you are guaranteed tasty moments. This may not be the most thoughtful Shakespeare production around; but it certainly makes for rip-roaring cinema.

- Richard III**  
Curzon West End  
15, 103 mins  
Shakespeare sets the screen on fire
- The Birdcage**  
Empire, 15, 119 mins  
Crass, gaudy remake of *La Cage aux folles*
- Safe**  
MGM Piccadilly  
15, 118 mins  
Unnerving drama about environmental sickness
- Sudden Death**  
Plaza, 18, 110 mins  
Van Damme saves the world. Yawn

The *Birdcage* revisits a different set text, Jean Poirer's hit play of the 1970s. *La Cage aux folles*, first filmed in 1978. The American remake, slick and shallow, whisks the story from the French Riviera to South Beach, Florida, where the sun beats down and neon glows at the *Birdcage* nightclub. Robin Williams is its buttoned-down manager, Armand; Nathan Lane his flamboyant partner Albert, the show's drag queen. Panic never far from the surface, strikes anew when Armand's son announces his engagement. How will the ultra-conservative in-laws react to this unorthodox family?

Time has moved on since Michel Serrault dangled a limp wrist in 1978. Now we have Aids to consider, and we take far less kindly to stereotypes. But this transfer, prepared by distinguished hands (Mike Nichols directs and Elaine May writes), leaves the old gay wonderland untouched. Any topicality in the film comes from the character of Gene Hackman's Republican Senator, co-founder of the Coalition for Moral Order, and his nervously smiling wife, Dianne Wiest. Unfortunately, it takes more than a joke about Bob Dole to make a movie contemporary. Scratch the surface and *The Birdcage* rattles with age as it cranks up the clichés of farce and drag comedy. On a technical level, you can admire the cast's poise and timing. Williams underplays generously, leaving room for Broadway star Lane to flounce with

finesse and some natural warmth.

In six weeks *The Birdcage* has taken \$100 million at the US box-office. But you expect more from the old team of Nichols and May than a film that only hits the jackpot by draping a corpse in gaudy colours and getting up the gay community's nose.

After *The Birdcage*, the placid surface of Todd Haynes's *Safe* might seem to offer relief. The camera sits still, quietly eyeing Julianne Moore as she goes about the dull business of being a housewife in the San Fernando valley. A couch is delivered in the wrong colour. She goes to the fitness club, and perms her hair; any hard work is left to Fulvia, her Hispanic drudge.

But wait a minute. This film is by the man who told the Karen Carpenter story with a cast of Barbie dolls, and mixed the styles of TV documentary, 1950s sci-fi and homo-erotic drama in *Poison*. If his new film is quiet, the calm must be deceptive. It is. For the housewife's life is under surreptitious attack. Little things unhinge her. Exhaust fumes prompt coughing. She bleeds at the nose. A leaflet informs her about "environmental illness". A video tells her more: there are 6,000 chemicals in daily use, and only 10 per cent have been tested for toxicity.

Suspecting an allergy to modern life, she retreats to a New Age health centre, mezzooned in the desert in New Mexico. "We are one, we are safe, all's well with our world," the centre's motto reads. But the heroine's health and identity are still being eroded: soon there may be nothing of her left.

This is a most unnerving film. The narrative traps you in a tunnel. There is no escape to other stories, no emergence into sunlight. You must stick with the heroine's disintegrating life. At first comedy is allowed for; you can laugh at the ritual trivialities of suburban life. But by the time the housewife reaches her New Age cocoon, the film has left satire far behind, and leaves us to ponder gloomily on what ravages life more: environmental pollution or human attitudes to sickness.

Haynes gives his lead actress little room to manoeuvre. But Moore — so wonderful in *Vanya on 42nd Street*, so wasted in *Nine Months* — carries the film with great resilience, and never slips into cartoonish. *Safe* may not be the most entertaining movie around, but it is made with great care, changes perceptions and provokes serious thought.

*Sudden Death* provokes nothing except yawns. An extortionist gang takes the American Vice-President hostage during an ice-hockey game in Pittsburgh. After rigging the arena with bombs, they demand \$1 billion from Treasury funds frozen abroad; and the only man who can



Ian McKellen is a villain well worth booing and hissing in his chopped-down and speeded up version of *Richard III*

stop them is the Muscles from Brussels. Jean-Claude Van Damme, on fireman duty in a crowd of 17,000.

Van Damme, still not much of an actor, comes into his own when he gets kicking, and thrusting villains into meat grinders and chip pans. Director Peter Hyams never stints on the action, but you always feel you're watching a machine, not participating in a live drama. A boring villain further reduces excitement. Powers Boothe's former CIA psycho is suave and sarcastic. His demands include "world peace, an end to bigotry, and no more mini-malls". But the character dulls through repetition, and Boothe's voice brings no refreshment: he sounds like Gregory Peck smeared with honey.

## 'Entertaining and explosive'

Every week, young film fans discuss the new releases...



**RICHARD III**  
Matt Jones, 23: Some of its power has been lost by reducing the text, but it compensates with a great cast.  
Dave Bere, 22: I found the story confusing to follow but the film was lavish and entertaining, with storming performances from all the actors.  
Damian Samuels, 23: It could have done with an extra half-an-hour to tie up some loose ends in the plot, but it was entertaining and explosive.  
Jon Gibson, 19: I really love Shakespeare and I'm a big fan of this play. This is a cracking

gorgeous — as funny as *Some Like it Hot*.  
Jon: Wonderfully vibrant and deliciously camp.

**SAFE**  
Matt: The style of the film was bizarre — a cross between a social documentary and *Miami Vice* — and failed to captivate.  
Dave: Too many relationships were left unexplored and the film left me unsatisfied. The acting was good, though.  
Damian: While one would like to commend Todd Haynes for tackling the subject, *Safe* is totally devoid of any verve.  
Jon: Very moving, but the action was slow at times.

version and I would recommend everybody see it.  
**THE BIRDCAGE**  
Matt: Hilarious — the best comedy of the year so far.  
Dave: A superficial farce with some superb acting and hysterical moments.  
Damian: Bawdy, sexy and

BRITAIN'S absurd political obsession with Europe has been reflected in the media, and understandably so. But that has tended to squeeze out traditional sources of enlightenment, particularly America, so that current affairs programming is now more likely to focus on Europe (and Asia) than the United States.

The balance needed restoring, not least because so many American companies have plans in Britain. So a new three-part series, *America Dreaming* (Radio 4, Tuesdays) is to be welcomed. It is flagged as a *World Tonight* special: from that stable one expects quality and this provides it.

One key lesson of Simon Dring's reports is that he could be in Britain, except for the accents. "Downsizing" has been the industrial buzzword of America since the 1980s, as it is here. Americans, like Britons, greet a coming election with scepticism: what can politicians do to save jobs, if industries are set on moving jobs elsewhere?

In Iowa, Dring found once-great providers of jobs reduced to nothing, by strikes in the case of Firestone and by relocation in the case of John Deere. A man who earned the equivalent of £10.86 an hour at Firestone now works in a petrol station opposite the factory for £4.30 an hour. Kenny Merton, a road-maintenance worker, earns £4.86 an hour now, the same as he was paid in the same job 20 years ago. Bill Clinton, on a campaign swing through Iowa, decries the fact that the national minimum wage (£2.83 an hour) has less purchasing power now than it did 40 years ago. So much for that panacea.

The upshot is that 43 million American jobs have been lost since 1979 and the number of people on subsistence incomes is higher than ever. Old class divisions, always measured in America by income rather than by social status, have all but disappeared.

As Merton said: "We used to have a lower class, a middle class and an upper class. But right now you either have money or you don't. There's no middle class."

The Midwest has gone the way of the old British industrial heartlands, bringing fear and insecurity. The role of trade unions has been crucial, for their power forced up wages in the 1970s.

Now American companies have a simple message: work for what we offer or we will move to another state. Iowa is already one of the poorest states in America, but there is always a neighbouring country, Mexico, where people will work for \$1 an hour.

Throughout Dring's tour of the homes and the bowling alleys of the insecure and the dispossessed, we kept hearing the unspoken: if finding cheaper labour is just a matter of tipping sticks and moving from one United State to another, what would happen in a United States of Europe?

PETER BARNARD

Ian McKellen, Annette Bening, Jim Broadbent, Robert Downey Jr., Nigel Hawthorne, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith, John Wood

I CAN SMILE... AND MURDER WHILE I SMILE

# RICHARD III

STARTS TOMORROW

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

FRISTY, VISCERALLY PUNNING AND MENTALLY EXHILARATING...  
SUPERBLY WELL WRITTEN ★★★★★

OF ENGLISHMEN GOOD PERFORMANCES... GREAT COMEDY ★★★★★

BWILING... BAZZLING...  
SEIZING PERFORMANCES... GRIPPING  
MOVIE OF THE WEEK

AMAZING... UNMISSABLE

AL PACINO JOHN CUSACK BRIDGET FONDA

# CITY HALL

A CRACKING STORY ★★★★★

NOW SHOWING

WARNER WEST END  
MGM  
LCC

CHOICE 1

Leslie Phillips makes his Chichester debut in Love for Love

VENUE: In preview at the Festival Theatre

CHOICE 2

David Mamet's adaptation of The Three Sisters comes to Britain

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Harrogate Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS



VIDEOS

"Houston, we have a problem": Tom Hanks is stuck in space in the thrilling story of Apollo 13

RECORDS

The burgeoning talent of the British baritone Bryn Terfel is showcased on a new recital disc

Right stuff, wrong mission



Which way is home? (Clockwise from left) Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Bill Paxton as the Apollo 13 astronauts

APOLLO 13

CJC, PG, 1995 THE controls flash red. An oxygen tank explodes. And mission control hears the message: "Houston, we have a problem". Ron Howard's film recreates the 1970 Apollo 13 space flight with fine special effects...

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS

Warner, IS, 1946 A DEAD pianist's hand comes back to life to scuttle round the keyboard like a crab, making life miserable for his crazy secretary and greedy relatives...

BUTTERFLY KISS

PolyGram, IS, 1995 AMANDA PLUMMER and Saskia Reeves litter the motorways with corpses in this arresting but dubious British freak show...

PANTHER

HURTLING, rose-tinted drama about the rise of the Black Panther movement in the 1960s. In this retelling, the Panthers' only fault is an excess of zeal...

RUBBRA

Symphony No 9: The Morning Watch Jones/Roberts/BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Hickox Chandos CHAN 9441\*\*\*

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THE SCARLET LEVER

Entertainment, IS, 1995 THE film-makers did not know which way to face when they made this adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel about love and intolerance in 17th-century Massachusetts...

OPERA

John Higgins Bryn Terfel Metropolitan Opera Orchestra/Levine Deutsche Grammophon 445 866-2\*\*\*

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LONDON

DONATELLA FLICK CONDUCTING COMPETITION: The culmination of this biennial event with the three young finalists trying out their conducting skills on the London Symphony Orchestra...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER: The 1996 Chichester Festival Theatre Season opens with the first night of previews for Love for Love. William Congdon's comedy about money, vanity, hypocrisy and growing old...

MANCHESTER

Frans Bruggen conducts the Hallé Orchestra and Choir in his arrangement of Bach's Resonance and Beethoven's great choral work, the Symphony No 9 in D minor...

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Beatrix Uncovering the Past (0171-638 1555) Courtauld: Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (0171-973 2209)...

COMPANY

Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sophocles' Oedipus the King at the National Theatre...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London. Includes listings for various theatres like the National Theatre, Royal Opera House, and others.

ALWAYS

Alway's listings for various theatres including the National Theatre, Royal Opera House, and others.

NEW RELEASES

BEFORE AND AFTER (15) Gurneys drama with Mark Strong and Liam Neeson as fathers of a teenager accused of murder. Director: Barbet Schroeder. MCA Home Video (0171-332 0000)...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films London and where indicated with the symbol 'G' on release across the country. Includes listings for various cinemas.

GET SHORTY

John Travolta's lecherous takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elaine Landau's novel. Director: Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny Glover, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo...

VOCAL

Hilary Finch Schubert Winterreise Holzmair/Cooper Philips 446 407-2\*\*\* THE Austrian baritone Wolfgang Holzmair has quite a reputation as a walker, and he has admitted that he frequently finds the rhythm for a song through the soles of his feet...

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington Rubbra Symphony No 9: The Morning Watch Jones/Roberts/BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Hickox Chandos CHAN 9441\*\*\*

WATCH

A splendid setting of a poem by the 17th-century mystic poet Henry Vaughan. The choral writing is in the best Holst/Vaughan Williams tradition and the BBC National Chorus of Wales does it full justice...

WORTH HEARING

Worth hearing: Bryn Terfel Metropolitan Opera Orchestra/Levine Deutsche Grammophon 445 866-2\*\*\*

ENTERTAINMENTS

Opera & Ballet: Coliseum 0171 832 8000 (24hr) English National Opera. Theatres: Adelphi, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Masterpiece, SunSet Boulevard, Best Musical, Petula Clark, Best Musical, Critic's Circle Award 96, Company, The Phantom of the Opera, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows...

Starlight Express, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows...

The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows...

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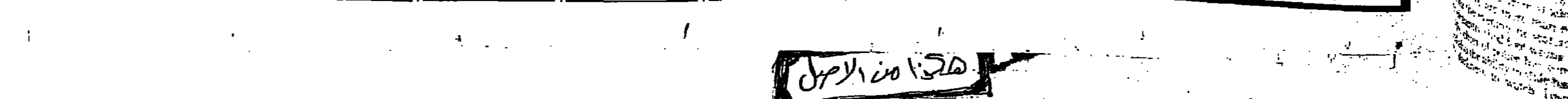
The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows...

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The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows, Les Miserables, The Wind in the Willows...

Advertisement for Cybill Shepherd at The Green Room at The Cafe Royal. Includes dates (14th May - 18th May 1996), showtimes (7.00pm and 9.15pm), and contact information (0171-344 4444).





THEATRE 1  
Shades of George Bernard Shaw are evoked by Peter Whelan's anti-Royalist play, *Divine Right*



THEATRE 2  
Molière sparkles in a lively new translation as the Almeida puts *Tartuffe* on stage



THEATRE 3  
Adrian Noble's intelligent RSC production of *Romeo and Juliet* comes to the Barbican



OPERA  
A dark and dreary staging, but at least the singing has perked up in Covent Garden's *Tosca*

THEATRE: Sympathetic royal in republican drama; rhyming for good reason in *Tartuffe*; Romeo as repressed adolescent

# Good night, sweet prince

The trouble with playing imaginative games of "what if" with the Royal Family is that reality tends to be more improbable than invention. Four years ago which dramatist could have dreamt up a scenario in which the Princess of Wales declared her husband unfit to rule, appointed herself the Queen of People's Hearts, and took the post so literally that a television crew could shoot her watching someone's ticker being cut up? By comparison Peter Whelan's futuristic fancy, which is that Prince Charles celebrates the millennium by renouncing his claim to the throne in favour of his 18-year-old son, seems almost workaday.

Fortunately, Whelan and his director, Bill Alexander, lift the idea far above the workaday. If anything, *Divine Right* is too ambitious, for it actually consists of two plays crammed into 180 minutes, each timely and enthralling but neither developed as fully as it might be. One is mainly concerned with the politicking of a republican faction in and out of the Commons. The other shows the

Queen's grandson and heir doing what Henry V did in Eastcheap and, later, at Agincourt: acquainting himself with the feelings of people unlikely to be invited to royal garden parties.

True, each allows plenty of thoughts about the uses and abuses of monarchy to come articulately to the surface. In play one, for instance, a republican wittily suggests that the Royal Family is so adept at "reinventing the 19th century" that Britain's movers and shakers end up sucked into "a never-ending Merchant-Ivory movie". In play two, a Nigerian shopkeeper passionately argues that monarchy might have saved his nation from dictatorship, corruption and chaos. Yet would not the big playwriting Davids, Hare and Edgar, have dealt more trenchantly with the wheeling and dealing in play one?

Here, we get parliamentary wrangles in which the leader of a "sanitised, deodorised, decaffeinated" Labour government — Paul Connolly proving with every smile and gesture that Blair imitation will soon be a major industry — plays games of loyaler-than-thou with his Tory foes. But behind the scenes plots are being hatched between an unregenerate socialist MP (boot-faced Mary Jo Randle), a self-made Tory meritocrat (smirking Ian Gelder) and an eccentric millionaire (bumbling Joe Mella) who thinks the end of "Norman" rule would reunite Britain and Ireland.

Their conversations suggest deep differences about the republican president — should he be Thomas More or Mussolini? — and these are only half-explored when the prince's secret trek through England ends. This has introduced him to a despairing OAP who begs him to mug and murder her, a fly expatriate estate agent on a trip



Shock to the constitution: *Divine Right* concerns parliamentary wrangles about the future of the monarchy

home, a distraught father who thinks bad royal example has destroyed family values and wrecked his own daughter, skinheads who worship the Queen as an English Führer, and poverty and disillusionment galore.

It is a pretty partial portrait of England, but that does not altogether matter, for, as played by William Manning, the bomber-jacketed prince is a touchingly real character. He is considerate, conscientious, patient, perceptive, sensitive, vulnerable, and everything some of us think Prince Charles is and hope William will be. One longs to see more of him. For Whelan handles his scenes with a warmth Hare and Edgar would find hard to match.

Here is the play's irony. Whelan, a professed republican, has made a scion of Windsor easily his most sympathetic character. Whether that influences his ending, though, I shall only hint at. This prince is the spiritual heir of King Magnus, admirable protagonist of Shaw's *Apple Cart*. Let me leave an enjoyable evening right there.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Lucy Whybrow and Zubin Varla play the star-crossed lovers in Adrian Noble's staging of *Romeo and Juliet*

# Boys and girls come out to kill

THE Montagues and Capulets are definitely resident in Italy in Adrian Noble's intelligent RSC production (sponsored by Allied Domecq), which has transferred from Stratford. Zubin Varla's dark Romeo and Lucy Whybrow's fair Juliet fall for each other in a vintage Verona of wooden shutters and weathered plaster. The high alleys are laced with washing lines. Life is spent at fresco, although always with a nagging sense of enclosure and rapidly narrowing perspectives, pressed home by Kendra Ulyart's design.

The Montague boys turn up, in carnival mood and grotesque masks, for an open air ball in the Capulets' iron-gated courtyard. By day, bringing together the historic and the contemporary, these youths loll at pavement cafes, spasmodically swordfighting. The costumes place us formally in the Victorian era: tailcoats and farthingales. Verona's inhabitants, in fact, look distinctly British. Darlene Johnson's blonde, coiffured Lady Capulet has the seeds of a hardy maternal Sloane. Christopher Benjamin, as Juliet's father, is the fond papa who turns swiftly into a manhandling patriarch when disobeyed.

This Anglo-Mediterranean vision questions cultural pigeonholing. It suggests constrictions lurking in Latin cultures and passionate feelings churning inside supposedly inhibited Brits. The production's emphasis is on intense adolescent emotions; behaviour veers between childish fits and adult action. The Montague boys are public school brats. The piazza is a dangerous playground where blowing raspberries escalates into fatal stabbings. Mark Lockyer's Mercutio is a manic joker, delightfully witty but worrying; sparkily inventive but unstable. His Queen Mab fantasy overwhelms him like a bad dream. When his best friend falls in love with someone else, he fights back the tears.

When, in turn, Romeo first enters, seeing the brisk exit of his parents in the opposite direction, the diminutive Varla betrays a nervous spasm of blinking. The loss of a precious love reduces people to near-fits of rage and grief. Or that is the idea. The disappointment, in practice, is that scarcely anyone is letting their emotions genuinely loose. Lady Capulet is only vaguely cold. Her husband is never really frighteningly violent. Romeo and Juliet's ticks and tantrums look tacked on now and then.

Varla and Whybrow, who have matured since Stratford, now speak verse with confidence. But that is not passion. The chronic problem is this: there is no chemistry between these lovers, unless you count herbal concoctions.

Still, Julian Glover's Scots Friar Lawrence is outstanding: downing a stiff espresso before picking down flowers; earthy, amusingly exasperated, firm, ultimately desperate. Susan Brown's Nurse, although having more social polish than humour, is refreshingly unwhizzed. Romeo and Juliet get into their stride too, once forced apart and racing into the arms of death. Whybrow grows swiftly into a determined woman, disillusioned by her elders, holding on to her ideals. Romeo, poisoned, dies in real pain, ecstatically released but not even granted time for a last kiss.

KATE BASSETT

OPERA: Impressive new principals breathe fire into a Puccini night hampered by tame staging and conducting

# Eye-opener still kept in the dark

THE Royal Opera's revival of *Tosca* in December was one of the most dismal nights of the season. Considerable redress is now made with the present, final run of four performances, strongly cast and with each of the three principals playing their roles here for the first time.

Anthony Michaels-Moore has sung bits of Scarpia on record but until now not the whole role on stage. From the moment in Act I when he emerges from shadows, of which there are more than enough during the evening, he scarcely puts an elegantly shod foot wrong. His chief of police has command and also the ability to slide back into the darkness to watch Tosca flap

about in church, looking for her lover. Michaels-Moore's still cherubic features take on the smug smile of the school bully while Cavardossi is given another twist on the torturer's rack. His baritone is currently in tremendous shape, rising powerfully over the chorus in the *Te Deum* and carrying a Gobbi-like snarl. The overall aura of silken venom makes him the best Scarpia here since Samuel Ramey.

José Cura, the Argentinian tenor, has been taking on new roles and new composers for the ROH at an exceptional rate. Puccini's Cavardossi is the latest and he sings the painter with strong, burnished tones now expected of him.

Parts like Samson may have taken a bit of the lyricism from the voice, but Cura manages very well the gentle phrasing of memories and hopes in Act III. But the victory cries of the middle act suggest that the heroic repertory will be his forte, in all senses of the word.

JOHN HIGGINS

# All the better for verse

*Tartuffe*  
Almeida

across the stage to hide under a table. A happy end, you might suppose, with virtue triumphant, were it not that only dramatic licence has brought about the hypocrite's downfall: Kent's judgment is right

to make Orgon's immediate future with his wife look decidedly rocky. McDiarmid, a master of testy irony, evidently relishes the snap in Wilbur's lines, and in one neatly orchestrated scene with Diane Bull's unsquashable Dorine goes hammer and tongs with her.

Almost forgotten between them, Emma Chambers's Mariane, previously a bubbly creature — and with a pretty habit of tossing her side-curls — is now too terrified even to snivel. In moments like this, McDiarmid has the look of a furious, bleached parrot. Wilbur, Kent and the actor playing Cléante (David Lyon) even make the play's moral aphorisms worth listening to, and this, in contrast to last year's experience, is a really welcome experience.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Hidden lust: Ian McDiarmid's Orgon is besotted with Tom Hollander as Molière's pious hypocrite, Tartuffe

# Macbeth

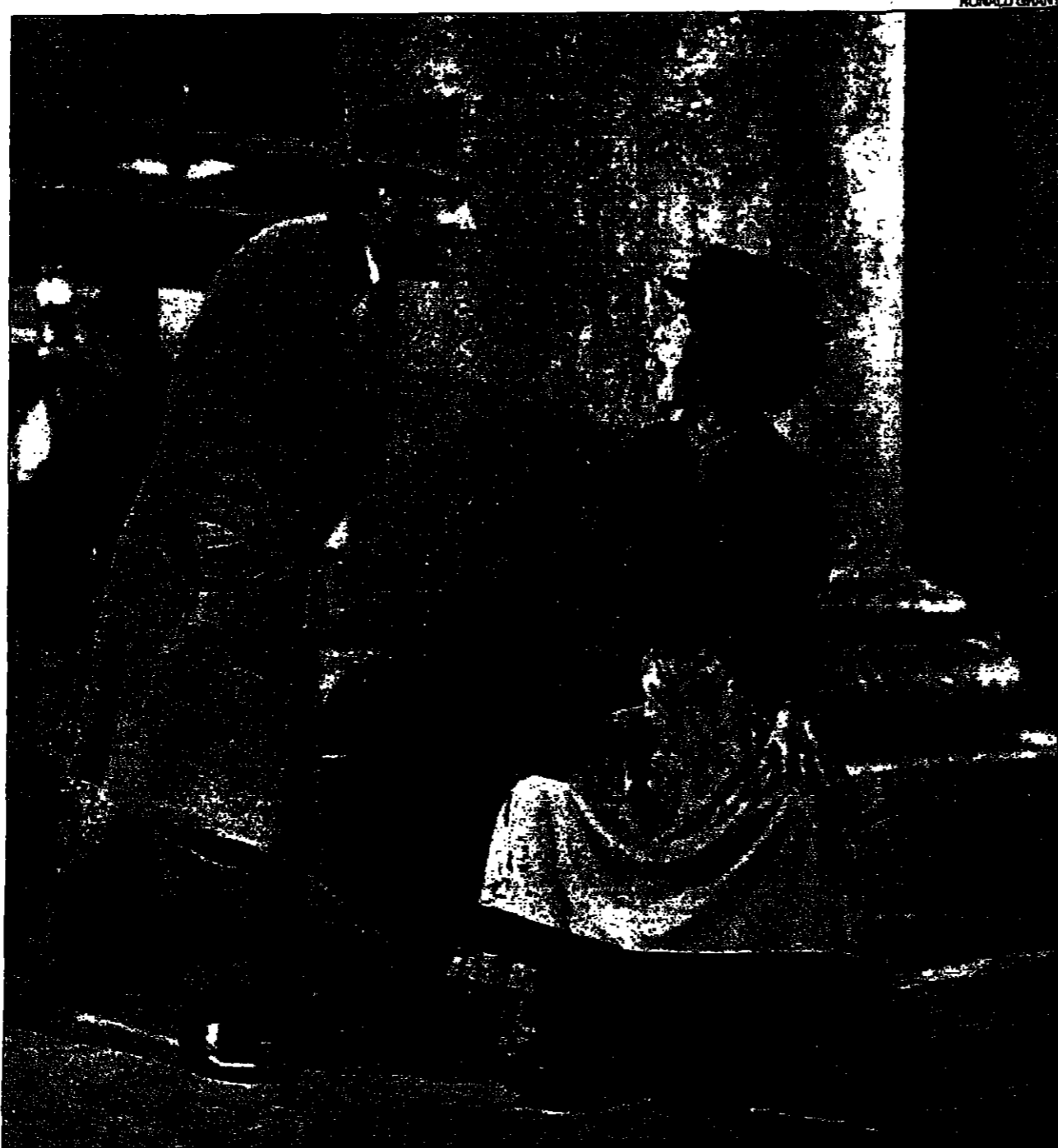
by William Shakespeare  
Cast includes  
Macbeth ROGER ALLAM Lady Macbeth BRID BRENNAN Macduff COLIUM CONVEY  
Donalbain ARTHUR COX Ross ROBERT DEMEGER Malcolm SEBASTIAN HARCOCOME  
First Witch JANET WHITESIDE Banquo PHILIP QUAST Porter ADRIAN SCHILLER  
Directed by TIM ALBERTY Designed by STEWART LAING  
Lighting by MIAM JORDAN SHEPIN  
Previews from 9 May  
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
Box Office 01789 295623

end re-enacting Scarpia's death with graphic detail. Her soprano now has an east European throb, not always used to good effect. *Vissi d'arte* was taken too quietly for too long to cast its spell.

JOHN HIGGINS

# Superman in a Jaeger suit

Peter Ackroyd on the fund of energy that drove a genius in flight from the physical



A fear of the feminine? Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady* (1964), adapted from Shaw's *Pygmalion*

In this intriguing study, part biography and part case history, Sally Peters has the courage to take Bernard Shaw seriously. In one of those *Maxims for Revolutionists* which preface *Man and Superman*, Shaw declared that "The unconscious self is the true genius."

concocted a more frightened and awkward creature. He was so afraid of life, in fact, that he decided to dominate it. He controlled the chaos of the world by simply treating it as the material for his art: if he moved fast or far enough, no one would ever catch him. On looking back at this "destiny" he claimed that "like Goethe, I knew all along"; but he could not have been so certain at the time.

BERNARD SHAW  
The Ascent of Superman  
By Sally Peters  
Yale, £18.95

Eventually he moved from Dublin to London, so that he might be able to recreate himself in every sense. The process of self-dramatisation began when he started to write musical criticism under an assumed name; when not scribbling down reviews in the Reading Room of the British Museum he spent his time, like any late Romantic, in studying Marx and Wagner.

He also began to read books of etiquette, but the drawing room was not his natural habitat. He was so aware of his own talent, and because they cannot, or will not, understand where the sources of their greatness lie. The curious arrangements of Shaw's family and household during his childhood, for example, seem to have left him with the fantasy of being "a founding"; indeed, like many great artists who manage to project some impression of their personality to the public, he was largely if not wholly self-created.

There are times when Sally Peters's fondness for psychological jargon affects her prose, but she is generally very good at describing the energetic vagaries of Shaw's ambition. His was an energy of the mind, however, and not of the body. Shaw's attitudes towards vegetarianism and alcohol,

hol, let alone his health in general, are in that sense highly significant — rooted, as they were, in his deep sense of personal threat and his disgust at the physicality of his own body. He learnt to conquer life by etherealising it and turning it into a play while at the same time he conducted his affairs, both social and romantic, as a form of drama. In fact, like other artists who live in fear or distrust of physical being, he lived off words. In his various and always theoretical love affairs he sighed words and he cried them. In the ordinary world he was a very lean man dressed in a yellow Jaeger suit; in his letters he was a demon, a god and a Casanova. The amorous

correspondence between him and Ellen Terry must constitute the finest epistolary novel since *Pamela*.

He managed the same trick with his drama since, by writing essays and "maxims" around it, he was able to fashion the very climate of opinion by which he wished to be judged. He did not only create plays, he created his critics. "Art," as Sally Peters puts it, "was a way to live on the earth while transcending it."

So he remained in all respects manipulative and apart. Was it Oscar Wilde who said that Shaw had not an enemy in the world but that

none of his friends liked him? He was delicate and fastidious, shying away from any touch of flesh and hiding his fear or guilt in that mist of words which followed him everywhere. Sally Peters detects within him not so much a fear of the feminine as a fear of femininity, especially his own. In fact, one of the central arguments of this study is that Shaw was a latent or at least non-practising homosexual; certainly, in the Jaeger suit, he would have made an impractical one. He might possibly be placed somewhere upon what is already a very long list, but the importance of such a position is a matter of debate. Not everyone is wholly convinced

by what Sally Peters calls "current gay theorists". Her book is in fact most interesting on Shaw's career and, since it is concerned with his "ascent", it is not particularly surprising that she should devote less than 30 pages to his last 50 years. Yet there may be a larger point to be made. Shaw ceased to be wholly interesting when he had created the persona which was to guide him through the rest of his life. His struggle was more significant than his victory, for in the process he found a vision of the world. Or perhaps it found him. "This is the true joy in life," as he said, "the being used for a purpose recognised by yourself as a mighty one."

## From peacock to sparrow

DJUNA BARNES was an early practitioner of the celebrity interview. Her work for American magazines was admired for its wit ("If you are sharp you can catch glimpses of [Diamond Jim] Brady between his jewellery") but not always trustworthy: she belonged to that school which lunches with the subject first, and invents the conversation later. "Have you been making notes?" "I don't have to. My memory makes a paragraph out of a note automatically."

Valerie Grove  
DJUNA  
The Life and Work of Djuna Barnes  
By Phillip Herring  
Viking, £20

must have a German mother for his children.

By the time she arrived in Paris in the 1920s she had decided that women were better in bed: Edna St Vincent Millay was one of those sampled during her Greenwich Village days. Thekla Wood was her great passion; another was Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven, celebrated as the Dadaists and given to wearing a birdcage with the birds on her head, sin swinging from her nipples and black painted lips.

In this *galère*, Djuna developed her world-weary, fast journalism: discarding banal fact, she could spot the quintessence of her subjects' celebrity; but she, the interviewer — chic, amusing — was the real star. The madly bohemian café society of 1920s Paris, where everyone drank a lot and wrote a bit, was hers to seize. Her writing could be vivid (Kiki de Montparnasse "raises her mandarin eyes, slanting with kohl") aphoristic ("In youth one may have been a peacock; in old age one is a sparrow")

but also often impenetrable: how can a laugh sound "like a submerged French pastry shop"? Her one famous novel, *Nightwood* (1936) — "a soul talking to itself in the heart of the night"; but actually a vengeful tirade on Thekla — earned her the patronage of T. S. Eliot, but her American publisher had to admit that "it is very difficult to extricate the story from the mass of brilliant but somewhat mad-writing".

PEGGY GUGGENHEIM took her up and gave her an income but her decline (to age 90) was long and sad. James Joyce, an admirer, gave her unbound proofs of *Ulysses*, which she later sold in poverty, to Harvard for \$125. In later years Djuna wrote that she had always feared the poorhouse — reminiscent of Diana Vreeland's conviction that every woman sees herself ending her days rattling a tin can — but even as a reformed alcoholic, prone to melancholia and chronic grumpiness, she retained her snappy wit ("Do you see why women have become bitches, and harpies, and furies? Because men can go to bed with them only so.") "Keep on writing," she urged Antonia White. "It's a woman's only hope, except for lace-making." How true.

## Dizzy heights at the Hotel Cecil

Andrew Roberts  
THE AGE OF SALISBURY, 1881-1902  
By Richard Shannon  
Longman, £72

Until Disraeli's 1874 election victory, intelligent observers assumed, with the Tories having lost five elections in a row, that the future of British politics would inevitably be Liberal. Yet in the 22 years since, the Conservatives have been in government for three-quarters of the time. They now rate as the most consistently successful political party in any Western democracy. In this book, Richard Shannon, Professor of Modern History at the University of Wales and author of *Crisis of Imperialism* and *The Age of Disraeli* explains why. Through a scholarly and painstaking analysis of the sources, he ascribes the startling transformation in Tory fortunes to a mixture of deliberate leader-

ship, political accidents and what T. S. Eliot called history's "vast, impersonal forces". The leadership was provided as much by Lord Salisbury as by Disraeli. In statistical terms, Salisbury was a far more successful Conservative leader than his predecessor, forming three governments lasting 14 years compared to Disraeli's two lasting six. But whereas Salisbury gave the electorate reassurance, integrity, a growing empire and genuine candour, Dizzy of-

ferred wit, style and stardust. Salisbury had an identifiable political philosophy but Disraeli created a myth, and as Shannon points out, as a result "Disraeli died was more important for his career than Disraeli alive". Dead, Disraeli could be the advocate of Tory democracy; alive he did all in his power to promote aristocratic government and stymie the burgeoning National Union, advocate of true Tory democracy. Dead, he could inspire the Primrose League, established in 1883 in his memory and which numbered 1.5 million people by the century's end, many of them working class men and women; alive he could only offer paltry acts of social reform to halt progress. Dead, Disraeli could be the Suez Canal-buying, India Expressing, Crystal Palace speechifying Earl of Beaconsfield, but had he survived he would have had to face the sober realities of German and American long-term threats to British supremacy.

These instead had to be dealt with by Salisbury, who while paying all necessary lip service to the Dizzy myth, spent his 17 years as party leader producing solid achievements greater than those his old Chief managed, for all his genius at prestidigitation. "There never was much uplift to be had from Salisbury," argues Shannon, whose book concentrates mainly on domestic politics. Shannon ascribes the emergence of the new suburban "Villa Toryism" to Salisbury's psephological genius during the struggles over parliamentary reform in 1884-85. Salisbury's Conservative Party stood, not for nebulous Disraelian "uplift", but for respectability, individual rights, social mobility, the rule of law, a market-driven economy and non-collectivist social betterment of the people — a platform that has served the party well for over a century. The modern perception of Salisbury as heavy and



Salisbury uniting the nation: this patriotic cartoon by Tom Merry appeared in *St Stephen's Review*, 1891

humourless could not be further from the truth. It was certainly a dry, intellectual, even cynical English wit, but it is still funny today. Indeed, Salisbury has the power genuinely to amuse long after some of Disraeli's more contrived witticisms have paled.

Shannon correctly identifies Lord Randolph Churchill as a dangerous demagogue, who Salisbury had to defeat if he was to preserve the aristocratic cousinhood which ruled Tory politics from the machinations of the National Union caucus. A Churchill victory would have led to directly-elected party leaders and eventually the end of limited government. That Salisbury was able to stuff his post-1900 government with relations that it was nicknamed the Hotel Cecil, and then pass on the premiership itself to his nephew Arthur Balfour, is testament to the scale of his victory over

Churchill. Shannon is left agnostic at the naked nepotism but prefers it to the Churchill alternative. It is clear that professor Shannon has thought deeply over many years about the impact Lord Salisbury made on Tory politics. He describes the party Salisbury built as "the best representative in British politics of the cultural and political values of the Victorian bourgeois world", and as such a fine counterbalance to the forces of totalitarianism of this century. The excellent *Longman History of the Conservative Party*, spanning the period 1830-1975, is, after many years, almost complete. Shannon's two contributions have been central to the project, showing how the party Disraeli called an "Organised Hypocrisy" became a formidable election winner. Andrew Roberts is writing the authorised life of Lord Salisbury

## A matter of consent



Brutal: Goya's *Scenes from the Spanish War* (c 1810)

Vivien Stern  
CARNAL KNOWLEDGE  
By Sue Lees  
Hamish Hamilton, £20

Many readers may be daunted when faced with *Carnal Knowledge*: 250 pages about rape — rape by strangers, friends, relatives and husbands, in war, gang rape and at the end of it all a system where most rapists are apparently never brought to justice.

It is an uncomfortable, but an important, and serious book. Sue Lees, a professor at the University of North London, has studied rape thoroughly. She uses the findings of three research studies; 31 rape trials were analysed and 116 victims of rape or attempted rape were questioned. The results are disturbing. Rape victims suffer guilt and shame. Many cannot go out or have normal relationships. Some cannot stop scrubbing themselves. Many lose all their confidence. One in five of the women were virgins at the time of the rape and most were raped by men they knew.

The research disposes of many stereotypes. The press will normally depict rapists as loners or psychopaths; but they are usually acquaintances, not strangers. They are not more likely to be black or to come from any particular class, or to be noticeably different; they usually seem normal and often charming. Their distinguishing feature is their extreme, hostile attitude to women.

Sue Lees's thesis is that most rape victims in Britain get little redress. "I have been left to rot by society and no one helped me," one woman said. The number of women reporting rape has doubled since 1985. Police handling of rape complainants has greatly improved. Yet the conviction rate is falling. About 8.4 per cent of reported cases result in a conviction. Many cases are dropped.

The adversarial justice system, where the objective is not to reach the truth but to win, is at its most flawed in these cases of interpersonal private violence. In most rape trials the question is not whether or not the act took place but whether or not the woman consented to it. To prove that she consented the

wear, drinking a lot, dancing provocatively, going back to a defendant's flat, being out late, asking the defendant back to their home, taking drugs and soliciting.

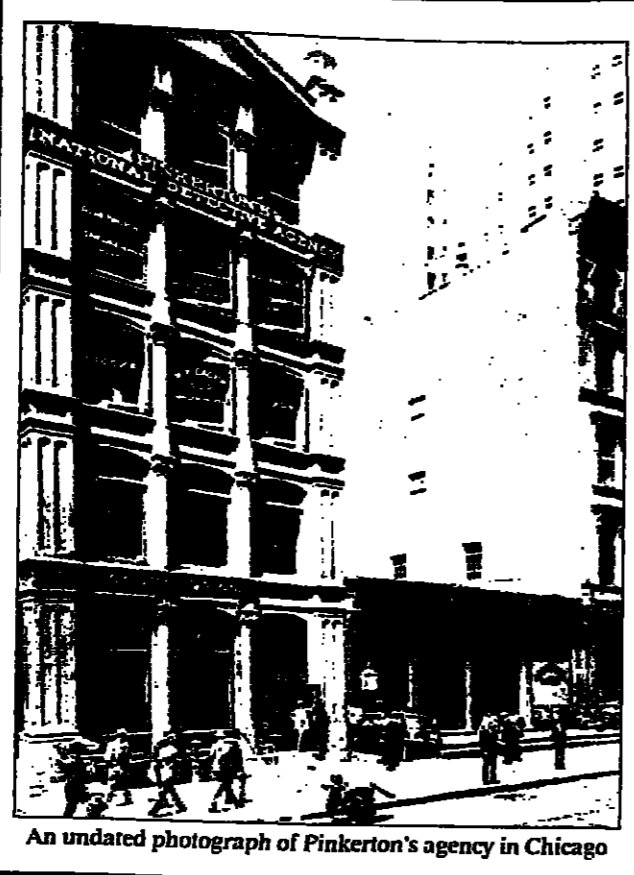
The credibility of the male defendants, on the other hand, is assessed on their profession, their lack of a previous criminal record and their social standing. No questions are asked about their past life or their drinking habits. The press often presents the view that women alleging rape are making malicious allegations to get revenge or cover up a sexual encounter. This book makes it clear how unlikely this is. It is hard enough for genuine victims to get their case to court. Sue Lees has some proposals for reform. She welcomes the 1991 decision that rape can take place in marriage. She wants to see a legal definition of consent based on an idea of mutually negotiated sexual relations. She asks, "Who represents the woman? Certainly not the prosecution, which represents the state. More women judges would help, as would more judicial training. These are worthy proposals in the short term. But the book is asking two deeper questions. Is the adversarial justice system the best we can have? And what are we to do about the violence that provides so many young men with their only role and identity?

PURE PLEASURE  
Rosamunde Pilcher  
COMING HOME  
HER SPELLBINDING NEW NOVEL  
HER NEW NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER  
CORONET — A MEMBER OF THE HODDER HEADLINE GROUP

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The per...

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From peacock to sparrow



An undated photograph of Pinkerton's agency in Chicago

Ben Macintyre on Allan Pinkerton, the dogged, bullying Scot who was America's first private eye

In the name of the law

Hollywood owes an incalculable debt to Allan Pinkerton, the Scottish-born founder of the great American detective agency and the granddaddy of gumshoes.

As the first "private eye", a term that evolved from his motto "We Never Sleep" below the image of an open eye, Pinkerton and his men were responsible for waging war on some of the most notorious outlaws in post-bellum America, from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid to the James Brothers. The Pinkertons also set up the first military intelligence gathering service during the Civil War and established the closest thing to an American Scotland Yard.

But while many of Pinkerton's adversaries have become picaresque legends, the detective himself remains a largely unknown and deeply controversial figure.

An inspired detective and upholder of law and liberty, Pinkerton was also a rather repellent man, a bully, a prig

and, all too often, a thundering bore.

James Alexander Mackay, the award-winning biographer of Robert Burns, is the first historian to attempt to shade in both the darker and lighter sides of Pinkerton and the result is the tightest and most reliable account so far, a portrait of a man at once deeply admirable and quite obnoxious.

Filleting out the real Allan Pinkerton is no easy task, despite the vast quantity of documentary material stored at the Pinkerton archive in California, for in addition to his talents as a sleuth, the detective was a master of public relations who churned out no fewer than 18 books running to more than three million words in total. Most were penned by ghost-writers, many are factually dubious and all are egregiously self-flattering.

Born into grim Gorbals poverty in 1819, the young Pinkerton was a militant Charist who fled Scotland (and possible prosecution) to set himself up as a cooper in Illinois. There he became, in

and often actively criminal, he was a glaring, self-promoting exception.

But Pinkerton was also an anti-crime crusader, propelled by an unwavering faith in his own moral rectitude.

"I feel no power on earth is able to check me, no power in Heaven or Hell can influence me when I know I am in the

ning agents into Confederate territory and exposing treachery within the Washington political elite.

Pinkerton's tools may now seem obvious — the methodical accumulation of evidence, detailed criminal records and a reputation for unshakeable honesty — but at a time when the forces of law and order were criminally inefficient, and often actively criminal, he was a glaring, self-promoting exception.

But Pinkerton was also an anti-crime crusader, propelled by an unwavering faith in his own moral rectitude.

"I feel no power on earth is able to check me, no power in Heaven or Hell can influence me when I know I am in the

right," he once wrote. As far as can be ascertained, there was never a single occasion on which he believed himself to be in the wrong.

Like most zealots, Pinkerton was at heart a moral bully and the most valuable and novel aspects of Mr Mackay's biography lie in its exposure of the psychological puritanism that drove his lust for upholding the law. The author does his best to endear his subject, but he is too honest to hide the picture of a sanctimonious egotist who was often cruel and domineering to his family, autocratic towards his employees and insufferably pleased with himself.

Having made his fortune and reputation, Pinkerton built himself a grand estate in Illinois with 85,000 imported Scottish larches, a retinue of black flunkies in blue uniforms and murals of Civil

War heroes. From here he continued to run his agency with a wrathful rod of iron. He died in 1884, celebrated by some, loathed by many and irascible to the last.

Pinkerton's estate is now a ruin; but the Pinkerton Detective Agency has become a security firm with 250 offices around the world and 50,000 employees which, among other tasks, arranges security at the Oscar night ceremonies.

The heroic outlaw, the romantic bandit with the heart of gold, is a staple and nourishing myth of popular American culture. But Allan Pinkerton, who unintentionally furnished Hollywood with some of its best tales, was exactly the reverse: a man who made conformity to the law into his religion, and whose heart was carved from the coldest Scottish granite.

Ben Macintyre's forthcoming book, *The Napoleon of Crime, is a biography of Adam Worth, one of the Pinkertons' most celebrated quarries*

ALLAN PINKERTON  
The Eye Who Never Slept  
By James Mackay  
Mainstream, £20

Still dancing to the music of time

Derwent May is charmed by the diaries of a writer whose recollections reflect his own life and his fictional creations

Anthony Powell was 90 last December, and does not stir much now from his house in Somerset, where he lives with his wife Violet. But his mind and imagination are as alert as when, over a period of 25 years from his forties to his sixties, he wrote his great comedy about that swath of English life where society intermingles with Bohemia, *A Dance to the Music of Time*.

This is the second volume of his diaries to be published, and it is both startling and delightful to find how similar the flavour of them is to the flavour of *Dance* (as he calls it). In the novel sequence, the polar opposites around which the whole panorama revolves are the glorious comic figure of Widmerpool, who is pure will-to-power without a trace of human understanding, and Nick, the narrator, who seems to see everything, and in a wholly natural way to be present whenever anything interesting is happening.

There is the fastidious Naipaul in a nutshell.

Robert Conquest comes to lunch on his visits from America and this always brings up thoughts of their friend Philip Larkin. Conquest tells him that among scabrous elements in Larkin's letters there are "odds and ends of fladge". Powell shrewdly anticipates what the reaction will be when the letters are published. The savage remarks about each other in the letters of Larkin, Conquest and Kingsley Amis are "probably acceptable within circle of three old friends as satire that will be understood, but rather different when offered to general public including malicious journalists".

Books do furnish a diary, and one constantly interesting theme in this one is Powell's comments on his reading. He goes through Shakespeare, and notices that Fluellen, laying down the law on military matters in *Henry V*, "is exactly like Horace Probert, my Company Commander in the 1/5th Welch". He wonders if Lewis Carroll's King of Hearts, replying to the Mad Hatter's "I'm a poor man" with "You're certainly a very poor speaker", was not inspired by Parolles, in *All's Well That Ends Well*, saying he is a poor man and a courier observing that he is a "naughty orator".

JOURNALS 1987-1989  
By Anthony Powell  
Heinemann, £20

Powell may not move far from Somerset in these journals, yet like Nick, with his observations and his memories — and now his abundant hospitality, always giving lunch to visitors — he brings another fascinating world into being about him.

He goes to the doctor's for a tetanus booster. "Tetanus Booster would be a good name for a US Senator, probably a Southerner," he thinks. (That "probably a Southerner" is the authentic note of Nick.) He reads a biography of John Betjeman, and memories crowd in — how when Betjeman was staying at the house of Powell's sister-in-law, Lady Mary Clive, before it was "on the grid", he insisted on being driven to the nearest house with electricity so that he could use his electric razor. That reminds him in turn that Betjeman had once made a passionate speech against electric carillons in churches. "What a hypocrite that man is," Ronald Knox had commented.

The novelist Vidi Naipaul comes to lunch. (An extra piquancy is added to the diaries, of course, by the fact that all its characters are real and many well-known.) What Powell records from his conversation is just the kind of unexpected remark Nick would have noted, with casual delight when Naipaul made a speech in America after collecting a literary prize, he was "a shade disappointed he had not managed to bore more acutely an audience of rich businessmen".

He rereads Lawrence's *Women in Love*. It reminds him that the wife of Boris Christov, the real-life original of Lawrence's *Libidnikov*, once worked in a bookshop, and when she was asked "Have you a copy of *Prometheus Unbound*?" replied "No, but I'm almost sure I've seen a bound copy on the shelves."

On contemporary writers he tends to be rather tart — a trace, perhaps of the vinegar of rivalry. That is not to be found in Nick — but, after all, there is a touch of Widmerpool in everyone. The tartness is better used in his attack on two television programmes, one on Evelyn Waugh, one on *Writers and the War*, for which he had been interviewed. His comments reflect exactly what Matthew Parris was saying in *The Spectator* last week: documents are simply "plays written by the producer, those who appear in them actors who speak the lines, which are cut, if not what producer wants".

In the end, though, it is something more than all these delectable items that makes these diaries such an alluring read: Powell's day-to-day life just draws one into its rhythm. You get concerned about



From literary lunches to dentistry, Anthony Powell is a writer able to convey the alluring rhythm of day-to-day life: the author at home in Somerset, 1985

Too many cooks poison the soup

The defeat of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister in 1990 has already become the subject of some self-justifying memoirs, not least from the lady herself. Philip Hensher's intriguing, if inchoate, second novel offers an alternative viewpoint: that of a House of Commons clerk, a post occupied by three of the novel's protagonists, John, Henry and Louis and, until recently, by the author himself.

This below-stairs view of great events offers fascinating detail about the workings of the Commons: its labyrinthine corridors, arcane customs and mundane procedures. Its portrait of the relationship between clerks and MPs neatly complements that between civil servants and ministers, familiar from *Yes Minister*. What it does not do is offer any new insight into the drama's central figure. The description of the Prime Minister listening to Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech, or of Louis encountering her in the division lobby contains nothing beyond the popular image of her ferrous self-confidence and regal sex appeal.

SATURDAY BOOKS

Tunku Varadarajan on the memoirs of Phoolan Devi, left, India's 'Bandit Queen'

Plus: Elizabeth Buchan on Joanna Trollope's latest novel, *Next of Kin*

Bible ("At this time there was an attempt to write down the words of men, and it was called Hansard") and the flip dismissal of camp ("The next day the House was recalled; there was a war or something.") Far more successful is the dialogue, which is sharp and genuinely quirky, particularly as spoken by John's two daughters, Francesca and Jane.

The familial eccentricity recalls the work of Ivy Compton-Burnett just as the political milieu inevitably does Trollope (significantly, these are two authors to whom reference is made in the text). Although Hensher fails to synthesise them or, indeed, to link political and domestic venom on any but a basic level, it is his portrait of sibling rivalry that carries the sharpest sting.

Michael Arditti  
KITCHEN VENOM  
By Philip Hensher  
Hamish Hamilton, £16

The perils of impersonation

Alan Isler's first novel, *The Prince of West End Avenue*, was a comic set-piece, located in a Manhattan residential home for elderly Jews. Once set up, it could almost have written itself; a mark not of a deficiency of literary imagination, but rather of its author's almost mathematical understanding of it. Isler was until recently an English professor in America, and it shows. Having started his own literary career late in life, his fictional voice is tempered by an academic supra-consciousness which exerts an occasionally suffocating control over the proceedings.

*Kraven Images* returns to the themes Isler tackled in his first novel: the comedy of institutions (this time an American university), sex, superannation and the psychological darkness of the diaspora generation. This last is deeply felt; but where Saul Bellow permits the plot of the Holocaust to proceed with fatal stealth through the arteries of a novel, Isler tries vainly to apprehend it.

The fitness of his fiction is essentially in conflict with this great stain: its light-heartedness rejects, almost viscerally, the graft of horror. Isler in fact has much more in common

Rachel Cusk  
KRAVEN IMAGES  
By Alan Isler  
Cape, £14.99



Isler: a troubled sensibility

with David Lodge than with Bellow, with whom he is fated superficially to be compared. The risqué erudition, the unrepentant masculinity, the playfulness bordering on farce, are here shot through with glimpses of a more troubled sensibility.

*Kraven Images* probes, amid the contrivances of a comic plot, some of what are ostensibly Isler's own experiences: a wartime childhood spent in England, a move as a young man to American academia, a return many years later to settle in London. Into these wanderings is introduced the notion of impersonation, in the form of Nicholas Kraven and his never-do-well cousin Marko. Nicholas, a clever boy of slender means, is impertuned by his idle, richer cousin to sit his exams for him, in exchange for the promise of funds to go to university. When Marko reneges and instead goes to university himself, Nicholas continues to

moonlight on his behalf, apparently for the love of it, writing all his essays and finally even his PhD thesis. Marko abruptly dies and Nicholas decides after much diligent agonising to take up on false (but not that false) pretences the lecturing job Marko had been offered at Mosholu College in the Bronx.

We take up his story some years later, when Nicholas is entrenched in late middle-age and has carried off his deception to the point of becoming an academic cliché: disillusioned, salacious, envious of

the success of others. He is also selfish, dishonest and cruel, having apparently taken on more than one aspect of Marko's identity. This is Isler's way of showing how easy it is to become someone you never set out to be; and how, too, the émigré can incur the loss not just of a sense of place, but of family, morality and self.

With nothing to shore him up, Nicholas's craven instincts flourish unchecked. He maintains an affair with his neighbour's wife, tries to seduce a young student and passes off another student's discoveries as his own, all the while compiling a volume of his own burlesque verse amusingly entitled *Ticker-Boo*. Things come, naturally enough, to a head and he is forced to return to England, there to face his inevitable demons.

Isler evidently likes a grand finale, but it takes a brave man to end a novel with his anti-hero sitting weeping at the completion of his own rite of passage. There is another, better book beneath the surface of *Kraven Images*, one which might make its readers weep instead: and should he ever tire of his love of the fantastical, Isler will undoubtedly write it.

utter of consent



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# Early test for Italian leaders



The Travel Business  
HARVEY ELLIOTT

In the past few years, the great Italian cities have been almost submerged under a tide of tourists. Groups of Japanese, Americans, Germans, British, French and, increasingly, Russians shuffle after their guides — brightly coloured umbrellas held high — around the sites of Rome, Florence and Venice.

Around them surge milling masses of teenagers from continental Europe. Together they are an almost intolerable burden on cities which have withstood the ravages of centuries.

The Italians have, perhaps, allowed themselves to become rather blasé about their historical monuments. Whether it is the Duomo in Florence or the Colosseum in Rome, there are unmistakable signs that successive governments have spent too little keeping them in the best of condition.

In the centre of Rome, for example, is one of the world's most ancient sports arenas, the Circo Massimo — where chariots used to race nearly 2,000 years ago — is now unkept and litter-strewn. Archaeologically important ruins stand neglected and surrounded by an ugly fence.

It does not require a town-planning expert to see how the circus could be linked to the Colosseum, the Palatine and the Forum in one cultural area. It would need to be a well-kept, signposted site free from coaches.

Italy is experiencing a surge in tourism beyond its wildest expectations. You cannot blame tour operators for meeting that demand and for obtaining the best possible deals. Thomson, for example, charges British holidaymakers £539 a person for an eight-day trip to Rome and Florence, staying in four-star hotels and including flights, transfers and breakfast. At the cheaper end, a three-day break in Rome is advertised in Thomson's City Breaks brochure from £129.

Italians pay less, and the swirling crowds of teenagers less still. Is it any wonder the world is beating a path to Rome and other Italian cities where such bargains are available?

The question confronting the new Italian Government is how visitors can be both welcomed and controlled. It will be pressed to find a way during the European Union summit in Florence in June, when buildings now being cleaned should be free of their scaffolds and shrouds.

The world of tourism will be hoping that the newly elected leaders will have the wisdom and the cash to do the right thing.

## Bargains of the week — from trips abroad and round Britain to special deals on hotels, ferries and flights

### HOLIDAYS

SPECIAL offers to Turkey this week include a week's bed and breakfast in Fethiye and return flights from £240 per person from Accommodation Overseas. Departures on May 3 and 10. Details: 0181-977 2984.

A ROOM-ONLY arrangement for a week in Turkey is available for even less, £149, from Page & Moy, with flights from Gatwick on May 7. Details: 0116-250 7116.

WATERCOLOUR painting holidays in May, led by respected artists, are available to European destinations from Simply Travel and include a fortnight in Turkey from May 5 for £785 per person including half-board and flights. Details: 0181-995 3883.

BULB-FIELD breaks to Amsterdam from £219 per person are being offered by Crystal Cities until May 22. Prices include return flights from Heathrow, two nights B&B and a visit to Keukenhof Gardens. Details: 0181-390 9900.

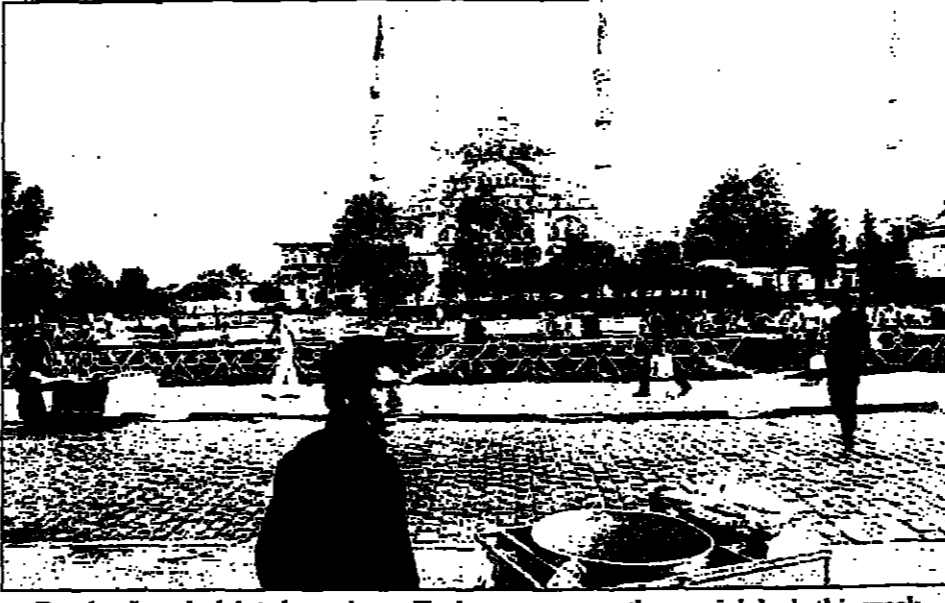
A FREE hire car with every villa booked during May and early June is being offered by Club Bolland Holidays, which specialises in private accommodation in the north of Majorca. Weekly villa rentals start from £335 in May. Details: 01903 230128.

HARLEQUIN Worldwide Travel is lopping £100 off holidays to Spice Island Inn, Grenada, for midweek departures from May 1 to July 19. A suite for a week with half-board and flights costs £1,026 per person. Details: 01708 852780.

GOA for a fortnight for £339 per person is available from Advantage Travel Centres with a flight from Gatwick on May 2 and room-only accommodation. Details: 0171-323 3408.

TWO weeks for the price of one at a beach resort in Kenya is on offer from Somak Holidays with prices for half-board starting at £399 per person. The offer lasts from May 5 to 26 with flights from Gatwick to Mombasa. Details: 0181-425 3000.

MALTA Direct Travel is offering a week's bed and breakfast at the Continental Hotel, Msida, and return flights from Gatwick for £199 per person, a £40 saving, with departures on May 6 and 13. Details: 0181-785 3233.



Road to Istanbul: late bargains to Turkey are among the special deals this week

### FLIGHTS

ALITALIA is launching a new daily service to Florence from Gatwick on May 1 with introductory fares of £175 for economy and £415 for business class. Details: 0171-602 7111.

IBERIA Airlines has a new fare for those wanting to combine a visit to Barcelona or Madrid with a resort holiday. A round trip from London or Manchester to Ibiza and Madrid starts from £209. Details: 01793 542114.

MEMBERS of British Airways Executive Club can receive discounts of up to 30 per cent on excursion fares to all destinations. Bookings must be made by May 17 for outbound travel before June 15. Details: 01793 542114.

QANTAS and British Airways are charging from £699 for peak season travel to Australia. To qualify, you must book before April 31 and travel on selected dates between November and March. Details: 0345 222111.

DISCOUNTED Virgin Atlantic transatlantic tickets are being marketed by Travel Warehouse. Depart before April 30 and a return trip to New York costs £195 and San Francisco £240. Details: 0171-414 8808.

### FERRIES

HOVERSPEED is selling peak-season departures through a broker, Eurodrive, at up to 60 per cent off brochure prices. A £129 fare is quoted on Dover-Calais, £99 on Folkestone-Boulogne for travel until October 31. All fares apply to a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0181-324 4000.

SEA FRANCE has rushed in a £40 fare for Dover-Calais five-day returns during April, valid for a car and up to nine passengers. Book 48 hours in advance. Details: 01304 204204.

P&O European Ferries is offering day trips throughout the year for £19 per car plus £4 per passenger on Dover-Calais (£29 on Saturdays). Details: 0990 980980.

STENA Line has short-stay offers until May 22 on all its routes, including Fishguard-Rosslare for £94 for a car and five passengers. Details: 0990 707070.

SWANSEA Cork Ferries is promoting three festivals for seafood lovers during May with special fares across the Irish Sea. Fares start at £135 for weekend returns, £159 for mid-week fares. Details: 01792 456116.

### HOTELS

LEARN to drive in a weekend at the Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington. For £224 a person, you get two nights' half-board, up to 12 hours of qualified instruction and discounts on further lessons if needed. Details: 01325 509955.

AUDLEYS Wood, a Grade II-listed country house hotel on the edge of the Hampshire Downs, is holding a series of murder mystery weekends hosted by a former police detective using real-life detection methods. Price is £155 a person for two nights, including meals and wine at dinner. Details: 01256 817555.

STAY FOR two weeks and pay for one at the Round Hill resort on Jamaica's north coast for £950 per person including flights and transfers. Details from Elegant Resorts: 01244 897888.

VISIT Stapley Water Gardens, which claim to be the world's largest water gardens with more than an acre of tropical pond, when staying on a weekend break at the Stoke-on-Trent Most House. Price is £55 per person for one night's accommodation, half-board, including entry to Stapley. Details: 01822 609988.

THE RITZ Hotel restaurant reopens tomorrow after extensive refurbishment. A new three-course lunch costs £28 per person. Details: 0171-493 8181.

BAGPIPE lessons and a guide to enjoying more than 60 whiskies are some of the activities on offer at Perthshire's premier country house hotel, Kinraid. Room rates start at £200 a night, including full Scottish breakfast. Details: 01796 482440.

HARTWELL House near Aylesbury, part of the Historic House Hotels consortium, is offering two-day summer breaks starting this Sunday until October 13. Price is £117 per person per night, including dinner and entry to nearby Blenheim Palace or other local historic properties. Details: 01296 747444.

HIGHBULLEN Hotel in north Devon is offering residential fishing courses for beginners and those with more experience from £52.50 to £50 per person per night, including dinner. A 10 per cent discount applies for stays of four nights or more until the end of May. Details: 01769 540561.

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## France cuts prices to lure British

By Tony Dawe and Steve Keenan

CROSS-CHANNEL ferry companies are discounting their fares, camping operators to France are cutting prices and Parisian hotels are offering special rates as the travel industry strives to combat the continuing decline in British visitors to France.

Industry leaders hope that the special offers will draw Britons across the Channel despite the poor exchange rate and prospects of another hot summer at home. They accept, however, that many will continue to delay booking in the hope of better deals.

Many tour operators to France are reporting a drop of 30 per cent in bookings this year after a flat 1995, when nine million Britons visited France. But some sections of the industry have noticed a slight upturn in interest. P&O European Ferries says its ships carried more cars on the Dover-Calais service this Easter than last and that this month's bookings for summer have risen. Ian Todd of P&O says: "We are now forecasting only an 8 per cent drop in business on the cross-Channel routes this year, which will be a good result, considering the tunnel is in full operation."

P&O and Stena are offering discounts on brochure prices this summer and tour operators are seizing on them to promote cut-price deals. French Country Camping

this week reduced prices by up to 38 per cent, making two weeks' camping in Aquitaine from May 17 available for a family of six for £185, compared with £298 in its brochure. The company is also reducing the number of sites available. Mark Hammerton, its managing director, says: "In the past few weeks we have seen an upturn, but it is not going to be a good year."

Sunsites has also reduced prices by up to 25 per cent in high season, cutting the cost of a two-week mobile-home holiday in the Vendee in August from £1,400 to £1,046, and Canvas Holidays is also offering £300 off packages booked by May 31.

Paris hotels also started a big marketing campaign this week, including tactical price promotions, as occupancy in the first two months of the year fell to 56 per cent, from 61 per cent for the same period last year. Some 131 hotels have joined with Utell International, the reservations agency, in the promotion, which will last throughout the year, including the summer.

Elizabeth Powell, of the French Tourist Office in London, says: "We are still looking at a 15 to 20 per cent fall in our business this year. Short breaks are doing well but people are not committing themselves to booking summer holidays."

## Threat to airline loyalty schemes

By Harvey Elliott

FREQUENT-FLYER loyalty programmes, which enable many business travellers to take free holiday flights, could be phased out, a leading travel academic said this week.

As more airlines set up their own schemes, so the value of the programmes in attracting new business is diminished, says Allan Beaver, a lecturer at Surrey University who carried out an extensive survey of frequent-flyer schemes.

He says: "The FFP (frequent flyer programme) phenomenon could collapse just as quickly as the trading stamps era passed in the UK."

There are now more than 120 million members of 80 FFPs around the world with many belonging to several schemes, he says in the new issue of the academic publication *Tourism Economics*.

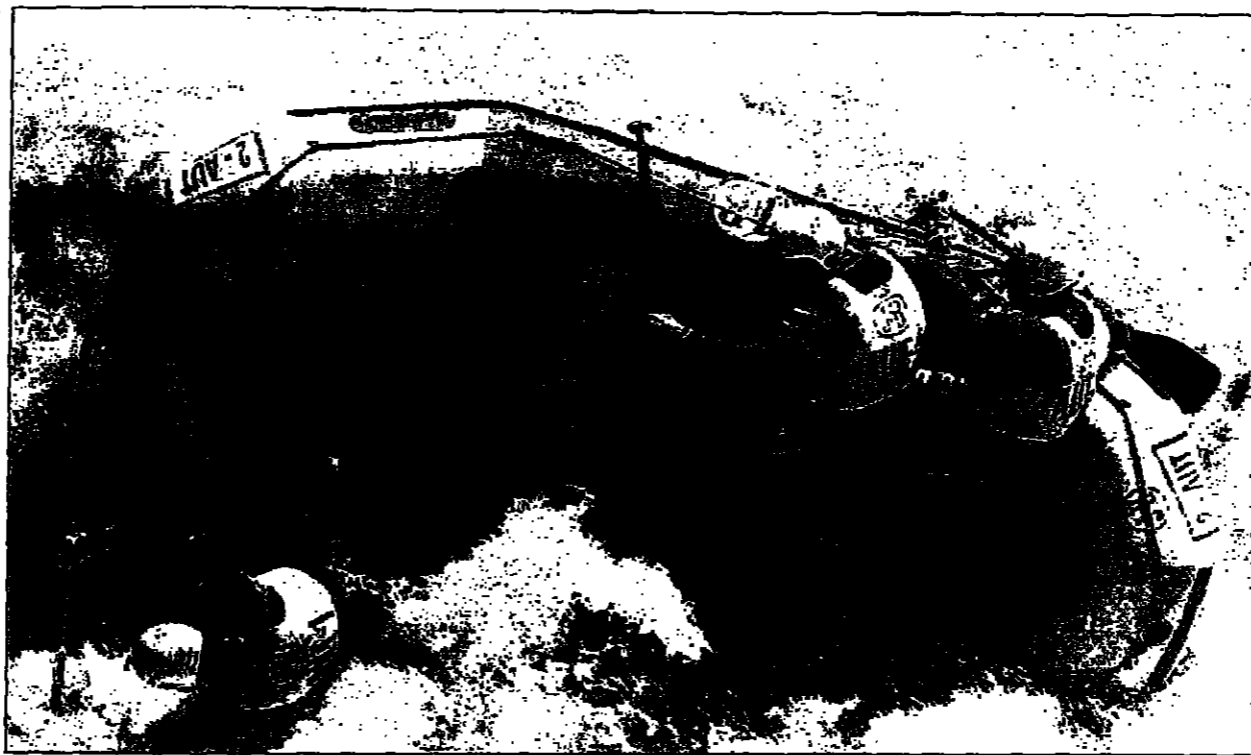
In America, where frequent-flyer programmes are particu-

larly popular, some flights are full for months ahead in the summer, particularly to resorts such as Hawaii.

"Only half of European business travellers have redeemed their awards," he says, "although 97 per cent state that they intend to at some time in the future."

Even the most senior management in international airlines now admit that FFPs are likely to diminish in the future, with 94 per cent of those surveyed agreeing that airlines would gradually increase the emphasis on service "until a point is reached where FFPs become indistinguishable from airline clubs".

Up to 10 per cent of passengers are now travelling free, but as the world moves out of recession and load factors rise, the demand for the seats will exceed the ability of the airlines to supply the free seats.



Whitewater rafting, one of the vigorous holiday activities that lure tourists to out-of-the-way places

## Launch of the adventurer's guide

THE growing number of tourists seeking challenging trips in out-of-the-way places will be well served by the launch today of *Adventure Holidays Worldwide*, a guide to 18 activities and 50 countries where energetic breaks can be taken. Tony Dawe writes.

The list ranges from dog-sledding in Greenland with Arctic Experience to whitewater rafting on the Zambezi with

Mountain Travel Sobek. It also reflects the increasing interest in less rugged adventures, which will be highlighted in a speech at today's launch by Derek Moore, the operations director of *Explore Worldwide*, the largest UK adventure holiday company.

He has spotted a trend towards "soft adventures", such as trekking from hut to hut in northern Scandinavia and driving from lodge to lodge on safari in Africa, and towards cultural adventures in countries such as Yemen.

James Ogilvie, the guide's author, defines an adventure holiday as "one which contains an element of personal challenge through controlled risk... often in a wilderness or remote area".

● *Adventure Holidays Worldwide* (In Print, £10.95)

## Lunn Poly carries on discounting

By Harvey Elliott

DESPITE a growing shortage of peak summer holidays, Britain's biggest travel agency is to continue to offer an across-the-board 10 per cent discount - the first time such big price cuts have continued after Easter.

However, Lunn Poly, which has 800 shops and a 21 per cent share of the market, is aiming to maintain its lead over its high-street rivals.

Peter Powey, marketing director, said tour operators had drastically reduced the number of holidays on sale this year and there was already a shortage of the best hotels in the school holidays.

"Even, I couldn't get the hotel of my choice in Florida in July," he said. "We believe these discounts will encourage people to book with us, whoever they used last year."

Customers will have the choice of a straight 10 per cent discount on any holiday, plus even bigger discounts on selected brochures, free travel insurance or a "book now pay later" instalment scheme.

Tony Bennett, marketing director of Going Places, said he would not be following suit: "We will, however, watch them closely to see how long these discounts can continue."

## PINKERTON'S EYE



A MONTHLY column supplied by the worldwide security and detection agency.

### HIGH RISK

A BOMB has been ruled out as the cause of last Saturday's Delhi hotel collapse, but India is considered a high-risk area. Two groups, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and the Khalistan Liberation Force, are determined to stop the May elections in Jammu and Kashmir. There have also been ambushes of military and police personnel in north-east India. In Pakistan Islamic fundamentalists last week threatened US Consulate staff. Israel remains high-risk as Hamas reiterates its threat of suicide attacks. Hezbollah, the mainly Shia group, could carry out reprisals for last week's Israeli shelling of a Lebanese refugee camp. The end of the traditional Shia 40-day mourning for those killed coincides with the May 29 Israeli elections, an event that may be targeted by other terrorist groups.

There has been a spate of killings in Manila, making the Philippines high-risk. The West African republic Togo is considered dangerous; security in Lomé, the capital, is deteriorating and visitors are advised not to travel at night. In Peru Shining Path guerrillas have murdered villagers, ambushed police and military patrols and assassinated a community leader.

In Colombia the President has issued an emergency decree allowing the imposition of curfews and military checkpoints in the light of worsening terrorist activity by the National Liberation Army. In Guatemala military and security officials are accused of being involved in the current high level of kidnapping.

**EXTREME RISK**  
SERIOUS unrest in Lebanon continues. In Sri Lanka a new army offensive in the north could result in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam stepping up terrorist attacks. Earlier this year there was a suicide bomb in Colombo.

Algeria continues to be very dangerous and the Foreign Office issued a warning in early April not to travel there. Liberia is again tense after renewed fighting. Travellers may be in danger of harassment, injury or even death. ● *Pinkerton, 01420 544024*

### SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world again in Week-end Edward Marriott in Papua New Guinea Tom Pocock on how to enjoy Venice Insider's Paris, by Kate Muir Hazel Leslie in Kilvert country Jill Crawshaw's travel tips

## Condoms in the mini-bar

By David Churchill

HOTELIERS are belatedly responding to guests' criticisms of the high prices and restricted contents of hotel mini-bars by introducing a wide range of products, including cigarettes, condoms and cameras.

The Mayfair Inter-Continental hotel in central London this week revealed that since it had started to introduce a wider range of goods in its mini-bars, sales had risen by 25 per cent. Stephen Brandman, the hotel's resident manager, says: "What we are offering are the small things that people forget when travelling and that they usually have to go to a shop to buy."

Since introducing the changes last month, the 287-room Mayfair has sold 48 disposable cameras, ten packs of playing cards and 150 packets of cigarettes. The latter are only available in the mini-bars in smoking rooms.

The hotel has also introduced what it describes as the "relief pack" - although this is due to be renamed the Emergency Pack - containing aspirin, Alka-Seltzer, Bechmann Powders, plasters, tampons and condoms. This is priced at 66 and items are not sold separately. More food items

have also been introduced, such as crisps, shortbread and jellybeans, which are also selling well.

The Mayfair is not alone in reviewing the contents of its mini-bars. The management of the new Grosvenor House Crown Club is presently considering what extras to include when its rooms open in the early summer. The Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly is also looking at what it offers in its mini-bars, although Giles Shepherd, the managing director, insists that "we don't want it looking like a village shop".

But not all hoteliers are interested in changing what has proved to be a lucrative money-spinner for them in the past. Profit margins can be between 300 and 400 per cent on some miniature bottles of drink. About 5 per cent of the room revenues come from the mini-bars.

Brown's Hotel and the Savoy both say they have no plans to change their traditional mini-bar contents, nor does the Thistle hotel chain which is London's largest with 28 hotels in the capital. But Thistle revealed that customer demand had led to extra condom machines being installed in some of its hotels.

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Even the prices are an attraction in their own right; there are many special offers available this April, while during May and June, a family of four can enjoy three great days of fun and excitement for just £118\* each.

This includes a return trip by Le Shuttle for one car, three nights at the three-star Sequoia Lodge, continental breakfast and, best of all, unlimited entry to the Park.

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Someone you know can't wait to go.  
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\*Based on two adults and two children (3-11 years old) including sharing a room. Offer is applicable for three-night packages starting on any of the following dates: May 2-7, 12, 16-21 or June 2-3, 9-11, 16-18. Theme Park tickets can also be purchased independently from The Disney Store, Keith Prowse and participating agencies, at a cost of £25 per child or £19 per child for Day passes. Tel No. 02054

Runners up to 4 hours, 58 minutes, 52 sec



The Times continues its exclusive coverage of the 1996 Flora London Marathon with the names of competitors who finished inside 4 hours, 58 minutes and 52 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, official suppliers of computers to the race. The names and times of the other finishers will be continued tomorrow.



Tower Bridge provides a fairy-tale backdrop for this marathon competitor to add his own brand of magic

- List of marathon runners and their finishing times, including names like J. Hackett, J. Cashen, and J. Gray.

- Continuation of the list of marathon runners and their finishing times, including names like M. Hall, P. Lee, and J. Hackett.

- Continuation of the list of marathon runners and their finishing times, including names like J. Marshall, J. O'Brien, and J. O'Brien.

- Continuation of the list of marathon runners and their finishing times, including names like J. O'Brien, J. O'Brien, and J. O'Brien.



UNISYS logo and other branding information.



...es, 52 sec

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

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14:01 S Dawson 4:27:01 D Muddimer 4:27:01 C Smith 4:27:01 D... 14:01 S Dawson 4:27:01 D Muddimer 4:27:01 C Smith 4:27:01 D...

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CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC GAMES Atlanta 1996 swatch OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER AND PARTNER OF THE 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES











Air cuts losses \$32.3m

British Airways... which is 25 per cent by British Airways...

Guard quits

Howard... the incumbent ambassador for the watchdog...

lake rises

International... Lake... health...

loyds appeal

...the... appeal...

ONE in black

...the... black...

Argos signed

...the... signed...

Miller Companies

...the... Miller Companies...

Subscription

...the... subscription...

SKY NEWS

...the... SKY NEWS...

SKY MOVIES

...the... SKY MOVIES...

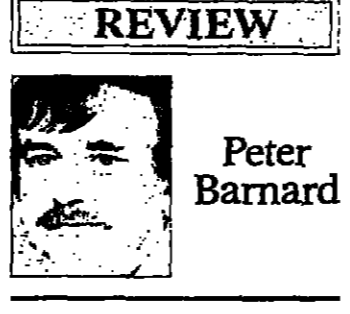
So refreshing, this Margarita from Cuba

Clive James turned in a public access channel in New York several years ago...

all called Robert over here, right? The unlikeliest of English popular culture...

Last night Wish You Were Here... (ITV) sent Lusardi to do an item on the Dominican Republic...

Streetwise (BBC 2) achieved the remarkable feat of making me feel sorry for putative London cabbies...



Peter Barnard

At any rate, James was enthralled by Margarita, so he asked her to Britain...

side from the fact that I will surely never forget hearing Sherrin called honey...

Why do holiday programmes feel obliged to send "personality" to resorts? And why do so many of the personalities behave as if they are startled to find a television camera under their noses?

The best bit, however, was when Modern Times revealed that, according to the Inland Revenue...

Margarita, a Cuban exiled to New York, is a middle of the road singer...

secret of the Paranormal: Bending Footballs

As HTV WEST except: 6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (583922)

6.35am The Adventures of T-Rex (t) (8389458)

6.00am Business Breakfast (20308)

Since Uri Geller personally controlled this film he has only himself to blame if viewers are sceptical...

7.00-8.00 Trains (564)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (46019)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (53309)

Secrets of the Paranormal: Bending Footballs

10.40 Strangely Scientific (415274)

9.00 The Golden Girls (t) (Telex) (s) (19380)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7711458)

Receptions: Sam Giancana

WESTCOUNTRY

9.30 FILM: Three Men in a Boat (1956) with Laurence Harvey...

9.45 Kilroy (s) (1864651)

As the most powerful gangster in the United States Sam Giancana led the sort of life that documentary film-makers must drool over...

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1939, b/w) with Edward G. Robinson...

10.30 Good Morning (s) (96545)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

10.30 News (Ceefax) and weather (5657361)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

12.05pm World Championship Snooker (s) (8345661)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

12.35 Going for Gold. The genial Henry Kelly hosts the general knowledge quiz (s) (3403302)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (56496)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

1.30 Regional News and weather (94145106)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44247670)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

2.00 The Flying Doctors (52467)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

3.30 Playdays (t) (s) (1386564)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

5.35 Neighbours (t) (Ceefax) (s) (329274)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (632)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (212)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (5187)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

7.30 EastEnders. Pauline is off to Jersey — but will Mark wish her bon voyage? (Ceefax) (s) (496)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

8.00 Wildlife on One. The golden hornbill is captured on film in the African savannah. Despite their comical appearance, hornbills are ferocious hunters. But they do have another side — they are sociable birds who live in tight-knit family groups. (Ceefax) (s) (4835)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

8.30 Noel's MTV Stars. Noel Edmonds looks at some favourite moments from the past five years of Noel's House Party (Ceefax) (s) (8970)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (730)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Patsy becomes involved in a sex scandal. With a host of guest stars including Helena Bonham Carter, Mandy Patinkin, Richard E. Grant, Gemma Greer and Suzi Quatro (t) (Ceefax) (s) (54841)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

10.00 CrimeWatch UK. Nick Ross and Jill Dando team up with the forces of law and order to try to solve crimes with the aid of viewers (Ceefax) (s) (724125)

11.00 Home and Away (Telex) (s) (54355767)

WESTCOUNTRY

10.00 FILM: The Bill: Black Widow (5812303)

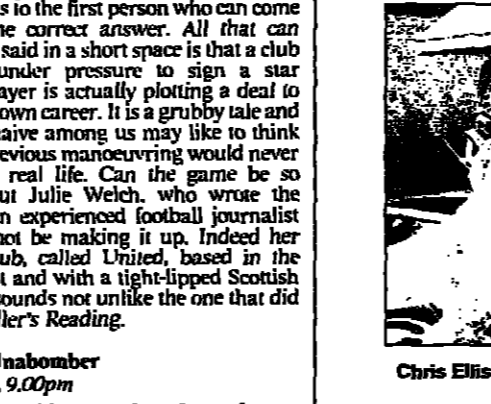
Advertisement for SKY NEWS and SKY MOVIES, listing various channels and programs.

Advertisement for THE DISNEY CHANNEL, listing various programs and movies.

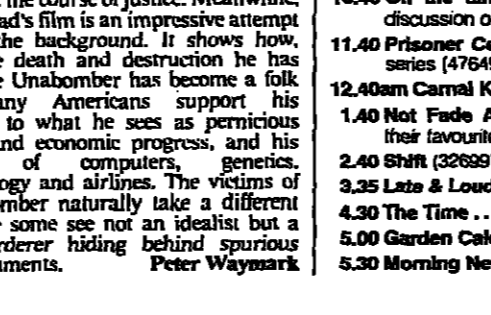
Advertisement for THE SCI-FI CHANNEL, listing various sci-fi programs.

Advertisement for NICKELDEON, listing various Nickelodeon programs.

Advertisement for UK LIVING, listing various UK Living programs.



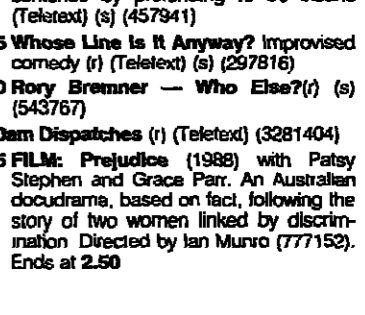
Chris Ellison as Ellington (9.00pm)



Arétha Franklin entertains on the Disney Channel (8.30pm)



Victim Dr John Hawser (9.00pm)



Witness: Unabomber (Telex) (s) (8361)

